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#### Majali meets Lebanese minister

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Sure.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday received Lebanese Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Anwar Khalil and reviewed with him latest developments of the Arab-Israeli peace process. The prime minister underlined quite importance of commercial exchange hetween the two countries and the need for investment incentives in all sectors. Attending the meeting were Minister of State for Leg-

#### Senior Qatari officer visits Baghdad

al Affairs Khaled Zou'bi and

Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf.

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior military officer from Qatar met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Saturday, the Iraqi News Agency reported. He was the highest ranking official from the Gulf Arab countries to visit Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war. The Iraqi agency, monitored in Cyprus, gave no details of the meeting in Baghdad between President Saddam and the Qatari assistant chief of staff, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Fahd Ben Mohammad Al Thani. Qatar angered its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council when it sent its ambassador, Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Khalifa, back to Baghdad in October 1992, The amhassador told Iraqi newspapers at the time that President Saddam "has a sincere desire to restore Arab relations as they were before"

#### Iran: Dispute over islands is 'solvable'

the Gulf crisis.

60.25

NICOSIA (AP) --- A senior Iranian official said Saturday a Emirates (UAE) over three strategic Gulf islands is "minor and solvable," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The official, Interior Minister Mobammad Besharati, said "dialouge is the best way of patching up differences be-tween countries," the agency a said. His comments came during a meeting with the UAE ambassador in Tehran, Mohammad Burheimah. The agency provided only partial quotations of his remarks.

#### Austrian police foll letter bomb bid

VIENNA (R) - Police Saturday foiled a letter bomb attack against the president of the Austrian Caritas Roman Catholic humanitarian and charity organisation, a police spokesman said. Saturday's letter bomb was the third in two days. Two letter bombs exploded on Friday injuring a Roman Catholic priest and a Atelevision presenter who are both active in helping refugees and foreigners in Austria.

#### Court rejects plea by **Bhutto's brother**

KARACHI (R) — A Pakistani special court rejected Saturday a plea by Mir Murtaza Bhutto. jailed brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, that charges against him of hijacking and leading a "terrorist" group be dismissed. The judge at the special court for speedy trial said there were sufficient grounds to establish his involvement in the two cases and rejected his application. The judge was forced to adjourn the hearing after more than 200 supporters stormed through police barricades and burst into the courtroom. shouting: "Long live Bhutto," 'free Bhutto," Mr. Bbutto, 39, has been held in a Karachi jail since he returned early last month from Damascus after 16 years of self-imposed exile.

#### Airport reluctant to accept israel airliners

TOKYO (R) — A new international airport in western Japan is refuctant to accept tegular passenger flights from I rael for fear of possible vioand the Asahi, Shimbun newspaper reported Saturday. Kansai International Airport Co, operators of the Kansai airport which opens next September, argued it would be too costly to guard against attucks, Asahi suid.

# Christopher ready to help self-rule talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began talks Satur-day with Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after saying he would try to help the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy negotia-tions if both sides asked him.

"If I was asked by both parties to do something I would, but I don't want to impose myself in any way," Mr. Christopher told reporters before joining Mr. Rabin for

dinner. Israel and the PLO must agree on implementation of the autonomy accord by Dec. 13, when Israel is to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of

Jericbo. But Mr. Rabin bas said it could take another week or two beyond the deadline to reach a clear-cut agreement. The PLO reiterated its total

rejection of any delay in the implementation of its self-rule deal with Israel, "The PLO Executive Committee totally rejects (attempts to) delay or get rid (of) the schedule to achieve the commitments fixed for the first stage of the agreement and particularly the full withdrawal

from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area and the transfer of authorities in all the Palesti-nian territories to the Palestinian National Authority," an official PLO statement issued

'The Executive Committee

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (R) — Jewish settlers opposed to Israel's peace

accord with the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO) shot and seriously wounded an

Arab at a roadblock and

opened fire on houses in Heb-

ron on Saturday, police and

In Gaza City, in the occu-pied Gaza Strip, Israeli sol-diers sbot and wounded a

Palestinian teenager while dis-

persing a demonstration of

2.000 marchers calling for the

release of the Fateh Hawks'

Fateh Hawks is the armed

wing of the PLO's mainstream

faction Fatch in the Gaza

The demonstration began

peacefully but a 13-year-old

Palestinian boy was shot and

wounded in clashes with sol-

diers trying to break up the

A senior Fatch official in the

Gaza Strip, Sami Abu Samad-

witnesses said.

ettlers h

invited all the negotiations committees to stick to the hasics of the (PLO-Israel) agreements," the statemen

Israel's army chief Ehud Barak said on Saturday it was doubtful Israeli troops would

start withdrawing on Dec. 13. Israel and the PLO are at loggerheads over the scope of the withdrawal, the security measures for the Jewish settlements and control of border crossings.

The two sides are also discussing the release of about 12,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, and the PLO Executive Committee statement said "the release of all of them is not a matter for arguing or negotiations.

The PLO nrged Washington and Moscow, co-sponsors of the peace talks, to help implement Palestinian autonomy. But Mr. Rabin has rejected the call for American interven-

"I bave been active in the situation at the request of the parties," Mr. Christopher said m occupied Jerusalem Saturday. "It is a situation where the

parties who negotiated a declaration of principles between themselves are now talking ab-ont the interpretation of the agreement," he added.
"I don't know if there is an appropriate role for me," be

In other developments related to the peace process:

neh, said his organisation had

proposed to Israeli authorities the temporary expulsion of

Fateh Hawks leader Tayseer

Bordini who was arrested

Mr. Samadneh said Mr. Bor-

dini would return to Gaza in

the coming weeks with other PLO officials, adding that

Fateh had never called for an

end to the anti-Israeli uprising.

major beat and detained in

AFP photographer for five

bours in the West Bank town

The officer jumped on Awad Awad as he photographed

clashes between soldiers and

Palestinian demonstrators and

clubbed him on the head to

prevent him from taking pic-

Mr. Awad was then taken to the Ramallah police station

and his films were confiscated.

Wissad, a photographer for the

Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot,

Israeli soldiers also hit Atar

Elsewbere, an Israeli army

Monday.

of Ramallah.

ton's duty to put Syrian-Israeli peace talks back on track.

The only way to do so was for Israel to make a commitment to withdraw from every inch of the Golan Heights, it added.

In the editorial published on Saturday, the government newspaper Tisbreen said: "It is time for the United States to shoulder its responsibilities and rescue peace efforts which are threatened now more than at any time in the past. This requires turning words into deeds."

"Syria has repeatedly ex-plained there will be no bargaining on an iota of Golan soil and that it will not go into the tunnels of negotiations with Israel without getting a commitment by Israel in advance accepting the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan," it added.

"The activation of the Syrian-Israeli peace track is sub-ject to Israel's full withdrwal from the Golan," the newspap-

The editorial did not specifi-cally mention the possibility of a meeting between U.S. Presi-dent Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad but it welcomed what it described as a U.S. move towards Syria. In Washington on Friday, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Clin-ton was interested in con-

(Continued on page 5)

and broke his camera.

coverage.

The soldiers had not speci-

fied that Ramallab was a

"closed military zone," which

they usually do to bar media

Three other AFP photo-

graphers, Patrick Baz, Fayez

Nureddin and Menachem

Kahana, were roughed up by

Israeli soldiers in the occupied

territories in recent days and

the news agency on Saturday

filed a complaint with the

Residents said about 80 set-

Israeli army spokesman.

rying Uzi submachineguns.

rule in the West Bank and

(Continued on page 5)

Settlers shot and threw

### King, Estonian president hold formal talks on Mideast, ties

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein Satur-day held formal talks with Estonian President Lennart Meri on various regional and international issues.

During the meeting, which was held at the Raghdan Palace, the two leaders discussed ways of enhancing future cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic and scientific domains, as well as means of establishing hilateral real-tions in all fields.

"We talked a lot about possibilities of cooperation." President Meri said in an interview with Jordan Television. "With the technology we have developed in Estonia. we hope we can be of much use to the future Jordanian oil shale industry...

Estonia, which gained in-dependence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, is considered one of the leading countries in the technology of oil-shale - one of the future and important sources of energy for the production of elec-

The Estonian leader expressed appreciation of King Hussein's stands and wise and courageous policy in light of recent events and developments in the region. He also voiced pride in Jordan's stands and efforts vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace process aimed at achieving permanent, comprehensive and just peace in the region. pointing also to Jordan's laudable participation in the international peace-keeping



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday greets visiting Estonian President Lennart Meri (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

forces in various regions in the world.

Attending the meeting were the prime minister Abdul Salam Majuli, the King's Political advisor MarKing's military secretary, and several ministers and senior

wan Al Qasem and his Royal Highness Prince Talal, the Abdullah and King Talal.

President Meri visited in the morning the Martyr's Monument as well as the tombs of the late King

### Majali hopes Christopher mission will end peace process logiam

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Jordan hoped that Middle East swing would help revive peace negotiations between Israel and the Arah rivals.

Dr. Majali said Jordan was looking forward to the visit in order to discuss bilateral relations and to help give momentum to the peace process.

tlers went on the rampage in the Hebron area of the West Bank. At least 10 were car-"We all believe in comprehensive peace and not a partial peace between states. We view It was the third straight day the visit as an important one of violence in the area. West because we hope it would re-Bank settlers say they aim to sult in breaking the deadlock in undermine the PLO-Israel agreement on Palestinian self-

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Lower

House of Parliament today begins debaning a vote of

confidence in the government

of Prime Minister Abdul

Salam Majali amidst ex-

pectations that Dr. Majali

will win the confidence of the

legislature with a narrow

margin. More than 60 deputies

have requested to take the

floor in what is expected to

be a marathon session during

which many will criticise the

government's foreign and

domestic policy, observers

Dr. Majali asked for the

confidence of the House

and deputies say.

the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.'

"As to the Jordanian track, I should point out there are bilateral relations between Jordan and the U.S., and at the same time there exists a tripartite committee grouping Jor-dan-Israel and the U.S. which is entrusted with discussing topics on the peace agenda,

The United States bas decided to be active or more active now than before in every item on the agenda.
"We bope to witness such

Vote of confidence debate begins; Majali

sure to win, but not by big majority

development during December and to see peace (talks) convened in Washington before the end of 1993, so that this year might be called the year of peace or the beginning of the real peace so that the peoples of this region can enjoy peace following conflicts of the past half century," Dr. Majali told the Jordan New Agency Petra.

Mr. Christopher flies Monday to Amman, where he will meet with His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

### King sends message to Yemeni leaders

AMMAN (AP) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Yemen, inviting rival northern and southern leadets to come to Amman for reconciliation talks, senior officials said Saturday.

They said Sharif Zeid, a former prime minister, returned from Sanaa after meeting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. wbo is locked in a dispute with vice presidential nominee Ali Salem Al Beedh.

King Hussein is a close personal friend of both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh, who used to rule North and South Yemen before the two countries merger in May 1990.

The officials said King Hussein invited Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh to meet in Amman to discuss their political differences, stemming from the southern leader's charges that northerners were trying to turn the merger into annexation and dominate the country.

They said Sbarif Zeid, who carried messages from King Hussein to the two Yemeni leaders in October, also met with Mr. Beedh in Aden and pressed the King's mediation. The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, confirmed that Sharif Zeid and King Hussein's advis-er, Khalid Karaki, returned from Yemen Saturday after delivering letters to Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh from the

It said the letters dealt with "...the latest Arab developments and King Hussein keenness for the unity and democracy in Yemen and the importance of overcoming any differences that could threaten

Yemenis held their first post-merger parliament elec-tions in April this year. Mr. Saleh's General Peoples Congress and Mr. Beedh's Yemeni Socialist Party formed a coalition government.

The coalition hit trouble when the president invited the Islamic fundamentalist Islah party to join the government -after it did unexpectedly well in the elections.

Mr. Beedh withdrew to his southern stronghold of Aden, capital of the former South Yemen, and bas boycotted all official functions, including his own swearing-in as vice presi-

### Jordan-PLO draft accord a key topic in Arafat's talks here official. "But how are they

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is scheduled to arrive here Sunday and possibly finalise a draft economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during his visit, senior officials said yesterday.
The officials said Jordan

was informed by PLO officials that Chairman Arafat was ready to consider the protocol, which was drafted by Jordanian and PLO officials and sent to Tunis in late September. Mr. Arafat arrives today

for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due here tomorrow.

The PLO chairman will meet Mr. Christopher again in Tunis on Friday at the expected conclusion of the U.S. secretary's Middle East visit aimed at revitalising the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations and removing snags from the Israeli-PLO nego-

Mr. Arafat had been holding out against the economic

to wrench Israeli permission for a Palestinian central bank and currency during the interim five-year period envis-aged under the Israel-PLO accord. PLO sources said.

"He also wanted to ensure that the (envisaged) Palestinian entity will not fall under the economic domination of any external party," said one PLO source.

But Jordanian officials said the draft document was very flexible and left the door open for the Palestinian authority to exercise its options based on the outcome of "final status" negotiations, including a Palestinian monetary hody and Palestinian currency.

In the meantime, Jordan has to remain involved to a large extent in the Palestinian mooetary affairs since the Jordanian dinar remains in circulation in the occupied territories.

In any event, the officials said, it was too premature for the Palestinians to set up their own central hank and issue their own currency because they lacked the basic ingredients" to do so. "It is easy to print and issue currency." said a senior

(the Palestinians) going to provide a monetary base for the currency and to defend the currency as legal Among other things, in-

cluding trade relations and flow of goods between Jordan and the occupied terri-tories, the draft protocol on economic cooperation calls for Jordanian control of the banking and monetary affairs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the continued circulation there of the Jordanian dinar during the interim period.

(Continued on page 5)

Nov. 30 after adopting the Mr. Arafat's new approach Speecb from the Throne as to the draft accord came after his policy statement. Islamseveral rounds of economic ists and leftist deputies contalks with Israel in Paris, tend that Dr. Majali's refrain from presenting his own poli-cy statement violates the spirwhen "it become clear that Israel will not allow the setting up of a Palestinian cenit of the democratic process tral hank during the interim even though Dr. Majali says period," said a diplomatic he is obliged by the Constitution to consider the Speech. Prime Minister Abdul with which His Majesty King Salam Majali alluded to the Hussein opened the 12th Parpending accord with the PLO

liament, as his policy statewhen he Saturday emphasised the importance of step-The 17-member Islamic ped up Jordanian-Palestinian Action Front (IAF) bloc will coordination "at this critical withhold confidence from the government of Dr. Majali Cabinet, its participation in the peace process as well as its actions during and beforethe Nov. 8 parliamentary elections, said IAF Deputy Hammam Said.

IAF sources say Dr. Majali will come under fire from the majority of the front's deputies who will deliver speeches during the vote of confidence session, which is expected to last until Wednesday. They say the IAF deputies will announce a vote of no confidence in the government for dissolving the 11th Parliament and unilaterally changing the Election Law.

Deputies who spoke to the Jordan Times said that Dr. Majali will not be able to get the confidence of more than 50 deputies in the 80-member legislature, pointing out that the premier has alienated a number of deputies hy "ignoring" them when he in-troduced changes to his Cabinet Wednesday. There is a general feeling

that the prime minister did not pay enough attention to the deputies and their demands when he reshuffled the government, said one deputy. "That will reflect in their votes."

Observers say that lawmakers are determined to assert their authority during the confidence session in reaction to statements that due to the composition of the

expected the legislature to be a docile one that will automatically give a vote of confidence to Dr. Majali. While the IAF bloc has

announced it would not give Dr. Majali a vote of confidence, other parliamentary blocs are not revealing their

The 22-member Progressive Democratic Coalinon (PDC) Saturday beld a meeting to discuss its stand on the government hut no decision ws reached, PDC sources 

issue hut no decision has beeo reached yet," PDC member deputy \$a'ad Hayal Srour said.

Mr. Srour, who occupies one of two seats assigned for bedouins in the north, said the coalition will try to bave a unified position on whether to give or withhold a vote of confidence in the govern-

Deputy Nawaf Al Qadi, the occupant of the Northern Badia's second seat and who is a member of the Jordan National Front (JNF) indicated that his eight-member bloc will give a vote of confidence in the government of Dr. Majali.

"Our vote will be in the national interest of the countrv. Abdul Salam Pasha deserves that vote," he said. Dr. Abdul Razzaq

dependent Bloc, which has five independent Islamists besides himself, has decided not to commit its members to a unified vote but refused to indicate what the tendency was among his group.

"The general tendency is to cast a vote of confidence in favour of the government." Speaker of the National Action Front Fawzi Tiaimeh (Balqa) told the Jordan Times. Observers also say that bis 18-member bloc. headed by Deputy Abdui Hadi Al Majali (Karak), will vote in favour of Dr. Majali and his team.

Observers say that even though Dr. Majali will be able to get the confidence of the House, many deputies will not cast their votes in his favour before pressing him hard on the government's domestic policies and demanding commitments to meet their requirements.

Lawmakers say the dehate of the vote of confidence will centre on government's handling of the economy, the democratic process and other local issues. They say that even though the issue of the peace process would be raised, the focus would be on issues of bread and butter that dominated the election campaign for the 12th Parliament.

aft eff

The explosion killed 270 people, including 11 on the

"The actions signal that Lihya cannot continue to defy justice and flout the will of the international community with impunity." White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said.

"We remain determined to ensure the perpetrators of these acts of terrorism are brought to justice," Ms. Myers

said.

The sanctions, approved by the United Nations Security Council Nov. 11 at the urging of the United States, Britain and France, officially took effect on Wednesday.

The White House offered no explanation for its two-day delay

in implementing them.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 883 freezes assets owned or controlled by the government of Libya around the world and here the posterior of the world and here the world and hans the provi-sion of equipment to refine and transport oil.

However, the sanctions exclude future funds derived from oil, natural gas or agricultural commodities exports. Nor do they ban provision of production equipment used by Libya to drill for oil. Ms. Myers said the president

instructed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to strengthen the existing U.S. trade embargo against Libya by hanning the sale from foreign countries to Libya of U.S.-made goods including oil refining and trans-

porting equipment.

Mr. Clinton also extended another year an existing com-prehensive financial and trade embargo against Tripoli that puts all trade with Libya in the hands of the U.S. treasury and freezes all Libyan government

thorities have driven 200

Christians from a village in

southeast Turkey, scene of a

nine-year-old Kurdish revolt,

State-paid village guards de-

tained and tortured seven

Christian shepberds in the

same area, using molten plastic to brand one of their victims

with a cross, the residents said.
They said 32 Syriac Christian

families, the entire 200-strong

population of Hassana village.

in Mardin province, had been

forced to leave their homes last

Silopi security headquarters last month, telling them to evacuate Hassana by Nov. 20,"

a Syriac Christian in the nearby

town of Midyat told Reuters.

tribal leader said on television

that it was an Armenian vil-

lage," he said.
"Then immediately they

were told to get out. Most have

been moved to homes in Oyun-

duk village next door, some to

Midyat and some to Mardin

"We are not Armenians, we

Turks say Armenians sup-

port the Kurdish Labour Party

(PKK), allowing guerrillas to train in Armenia from where

they cross the borders to

attacks targets in southeast

has often criticised neighbour-

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller

(town)," he added.

Turkey.

are Syriacs," he said.

"It happened because a local

"An order came through

residents said.

empty Christian village

"ANKARA (R) — Turkish au- ing Armenia, Syria, Iran and

Ms. Myers reiterated the U.S. view that stronger sanc-tions including a world-wide oil embargo were merited against Libya, a move for which global

support is lacking.
To date there has been no visible sign from Libya that it would surrender the Lockerbie suspects, Ahdul Base! Ali. Mohammad Al Meghrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who have been indicted in the United States and Britain in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Libya denies the charges. France and Britain are also seeking to extradite two Libyan intelligence agents sus-pected of being linked to the bombing of a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1989 that killed 170 people.

Libyan government assets in the United States have been frozen since 1986 hut President Clinton's order renewed that blockage, according to the statement issued by Ms.

The statement was issued in New Mexico, where Mr. Clinton stopped briefly on route to

"The U.S. continues to believe that still stronger measures, including a world-wide oil embargo, should be enacted if Libya continues to defy the international community," the statement said.

Some European nations dependent on Libyan oil imports have opposed the U.S. efforts to force an oil embargo.

#### Britain seeks to han film

Britain is seeking to ban television stations from screening a controversial Libyanbacked documentary about the Lockerbie bombing, Scottish lawyers said.

The lawyers, who declined to be named, said the lord advocate, the minister responsible for legal affairs in Scotland, would seek a court

order barring any showing of the film on legal grounds. Turkish troops forcibly

Iraq for aiding the independ-

In a separate incident last

week, village guards investigat-

ing an arson attack on an elec-

tricity station in Alagoz village

in Mardin province seized

seven Syriac Christian

shepherds, some of whom are

and one had a cross burnt into

his chest with molten plastic,

according to a resident who

saw them after their release.

The men were freed after a

night in detention on the

orders of a Turkish army offic-

The residents refused to be

Only about 3,000 Syriac

identified, saying they feared

Christians still live in southeast

Turkey, the remnants of one of

the most ancient Christian

communities in the Middle

East. Many have migrated to

Sweden in recent years, partly

because of the Kurdish in-

have been killed in Turkey since the PKK began its armed

struggle for independence in 1984. Ankara pays and arms about 35,000 Kurdish villagers

On Friday, the Turkish news

agency Anatolia said separatist

guerrillas killed three soldiers

and wounded 10 in an over-

night raid on a militia post in

the southeast province of Siirt.

to fight the PKK.

More than 10,300 people

er in Mardin.

reprisals.

surgency.

The shepherds were tortured

deaf-mutes, residents said.

ence-seeking PKK.



CONTINUING FURY: Palestinian youths Saturday as unrest continued in the territories in

response to Israeli army actions against Palestinians. In Hehron, Jewish settlers shot and

### Exiles shop, start to pack up

MARJ AL ZOUHOUR, Lebanon (AFP) - Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon have started packing their hags ahead of their return to the occupied territories later this month, and some have even ventured north to do some

shopping.
"I bought this in Beirut. They're gifts for my three kids. My wife told them I had been away ahroad," said Moham-mad Shehadeh, as he packed children's elothes into a black vinyl bag.

For several weeks ahead of their planned repatriation on Dec. 17, some of the 215 expellees have taken turns to visit other parts of Lebanon using false documents identifying them as Palestinian refugees. Around 10 have left their

camp in no-man's-land in South Lebanon clandestinely for other destinations in their country or have travelled abroad, reliable sources said. Bassam Yousef Al Saifi, a

35-year-old karate instructor from the occupied Gaza Strip. photographs he had taken in the northern Lebanese coastal town of Tripoli, where be took

CAIRO (Agencies) - Nine militants believed to bave car-

ried out an abortive assassina-

tion attempt on Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki last

month have been arrested, In-

terior Minister Hassan Al Alfi

said Saturday.
The nine, who were members of the underground fun-

damentalist Al Jihad organisa-

tion and its military wing,

Talaeh Al Fatah (Vanguards of

the Conquest), were arrested

recently in the Cairo area and

the Nile Delta province of

Menufiya, General Alfi told

Dr. Sedki narrowly escaped a car-bomb blast on Nov. 25

which killed a schoolgirl and

Al Jihad, which assassinated

former President Anwar Sadat

in 1981, had said its members

carried out the attack to

avenge mass arrests and execu-

tions of militants seeking to

topple the government of Pres-

Gen. Alfi said the security

services had seized 20 kilog-

rammes of explosives, five

home-made bombs, three

automatie rifles, 11 pistols.

nine remote control devices

and bomb-making equipment.

One of the nine suspects had bought the car which was used

in the bombing, Gen. Alfi said, identifying him as Sayyed Salah Al Sayyed, sentenced in

absentia to three years in jail

ident Hosni Mubarak.

injured nine others.

reporters.

part in a martial arts contest. "It is the first time I have duelled at karate with foreigners, because when I was in Gaza I was not allowed to travel outside the territory.

Mr. Saifi said. Last December Israel expel-led to Lebanon 415 member or supporters of two Palestinian organisation - Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) — after-the death of an Israeli border guard..

It repatriated around 200 ex-pellees in September and agreed to repatriate the others on Dec. 17.

However, some of them, like the exiles' spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantisi, expect 10 go to jail in Israel, rather than to their homes in the occupied territories.

"I think I will go to jail. It will be proof that the (Israeli) occupation is just as it was before" the signing of the Israeli-Palestine Liheration Organisation (PLO) autonomy accordion Sept. 13, Dr. Rantisi told AFP:

Sheikh Abdullah Shami, a leader of Islamic Jihad, expects

during trials involving 208

Mr. Sayyed was arrested in a

hideout in the Queissna region

of Menufia province, where

police seized a rough sketch of

the prime minister's route from

his house in the northern

neighbourhood of Heliopolis

to his office in downtown

Cairo, the interior minister

off outside a suburban girls'

school as Dr. Sedki's motor-

cade passed. Dr. Sedki was

unhurt. But a 12-year-old stu-

dent was killed by a school-

house door knocked from its

hinges, and four of her fellow

pupils were among 21 people

trol device triggered the bomb marked a major change in the

government's version of the

initially said it was detonated

by a timer, which raised an

uproar among some newspaper

columnists and other commen-

tators. Their point was that as

worrisome as the introduction

of remote-control violence

was, it was far more so to

consider that the government was sufficiently infiltrated to let bombers predict the prime

minister's schedule to the mi-

nute. Gen. Alfi said the nine

suspects were "highly trained

in Afghanistan in the use of

Gen. Alfi's interior ministry

Asserting that a remote-con-

wounded.

On Nov. 25, carbomb went

Talaeh Al Fatah members.

administrative detention as soon as I return, because of the political statements I have

made here." he said. "The Israelis will put all of us in jail and will release only a few of us at a time, to ensure that the Palestinian people do not organise huge festivities to mark our return." he added. Meanwhile, the exiles have

set up a committee to prepare for their return. Excess equipment - tents. blankets, heaters and foam mattresses — is being loaded onto mules and returned to secret donors in villages near

their camp. Archives and documents are also being collected to be put in safe places.

"Two days before we go. we'll pack most of the contents of the camp. The Palestinians and Lebanese parties will take back that they brought us, Dr. Ramisi said, referring to individuals who over the past year smuggled goods and food to the men across Lebanese

The Beirut government has refused to take responsibility for the exiles.

#### 9 held for Sedki bomb attack explosive materials. " But he counselled against undue concern because their bomb indicated extremists bave de-

ger weapons from afar. "Remote controls are even used in children's toys now,' Gen. Alfi said. "We have ways to confront it, and it should not worry us."

veloped the capability to trig-

Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack on Dr. Sedki, the third this year against a cabinet minister. Jihad and the Van-guards of Conquest probably are the most violent of Islamic groups aligned against President Mubarak's government. trying to institute Islamic law in Egypt through the bullet and

But despite their penchant for violence, the accused assailants were apprehended in "downtown streets in broad daylight .... and without shedding one drop of blood," Gen. Alfi said.

Western human right groups have repeatedly accused Egyp-tian police of torture and other ahuses against Muslim extrem-

In southern Egypt on Saturdy, two suspected extremists shot and wounded a police guard outside a police station, then fled. Police said the guard, Ibrahim Al Khatib, 37, was shot in the foot near Assiut, 320 kilometres south of

### Morocco accuses Amnesty of exaggerated reports of

RABAT (R) — Foreign human rights groups exaggerate reports of abuses in Morocco and keep complaining about problems which were solved long ago, the official consulta-tive council on human rights said Friday.

rights abuse

Thami Khiairi, the council's press spokesman, told a news conference that London-based Amnesty International, the U.S. State Department and other foreign groups "have a tendancy to exaggerate... and basically reproach us for what happened in the distant past."

They give the impression that Morocco is a concentration camp... that there are secret detention centres," he added. He denied there were any secret centres.

Morocco was ready to provide vehicles, even aircraft. to enable critics to visit what were alleged to be secret detention centres "on condition that the press will accompany them also to see for themselves."
In a Nov. 18 report, Amnes-

ty said 80 Moroccans and 485 people from Western Sahara had "disappeared." It also said there were 560 political prisoners, including more than 150 prisoners of conscience.

The report was due to be discussed at a meeting between the council and two Amnesty representatives, Elizabeth Hodkin and Donatella Rovera, who are spending two weeks in the country making inquiries. Mr. Khiam, said Amnesty's

list of Saharans dated back to 1975-76 when fighting began in the former Spanish colony. It was based on names provided by Polisario guerrillas. He said it included many dead people, some killed in the fighting, and unknown names impossible to

Two years ago King Hassan ordered the release of more tban 200 Western Saharans detained for years on suspicion of collusion with the Polisario.

Morocco has always denied it holds any political prisoners. jane, a member of the council named by the king three years ago, said the accepted definition of a political prisoners was someone who tried to change a regime by peaceful means.

"But anyone who tries to overthrow a regime by force of arms is not a political prisoner," he added, in an apparent reference of those involved in abortive military coups against the Moroccan monarchy in 1971 and 1972.

Survivors of the two coups jailed by military courts have all been freed, along with about 50 people — most of them leftists jailed for plotting to overthrow the monarchy.

Mr. Khiairi said the council had not received any submission on behalf of Abdul Salam Yassine, leader of the outlawed Muslim fundamentalist movement Adl Wal Ihsan, who has been under house arrest near Rabat for nearly three

"If we receive a complaint about his situation we will examine it," he said.

Council Secretary-General Mohammad Mikou said in a prepared statement the council had set up groups to study prison conditions, revisions of the penal code, relations with foreign rights groups, and the problem of people being held against their will by the Polisario in camps in the Tindouf area of Algeria.

### Belgian inquiry rejects Somalia misconduct claim

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian Defence Ministry inquiry released on Friday rejected claims of gross misconduct by Belgian troops against Somalis, but found that soldiers often had little compassion for often had little compassion for

the local population.

The inquiry said there had been some isolated incidents of "unacceptable behaviour" by the 900 troops hased in the southern Somali port of Kismayu, but that these had been dools with his the military of dealt with by the military or relevant authorities.

"Without any doubt, Bel-gian troops achieved very good results in their zone of responsibility," the report said.

Belgian troops, who will be replaced by Indians when they withdraw from Kismayu this month, were sent to the Horn of Africa country a year ago as part of the United Nations operation there.

The inquiry said Belgian troops had felt let down soon after their arrival when confronted by a "tough and arrogant" population where women and children did most of the manual work.

"Although staying mobilised and devoted to humanitarian aid and to situations of distress, the soldiers progressively took an attitude of strictly executing orders and missions. without much sympathy or compassion for the Somalis," the report said.

The inquiry was called after Belgian radio journalist and the independent human rights group Africa Rights alleged that Belgian troops based in Kismayu were guilty of the murder of civilians and beat-

Alex de Waal of Londonbased Africa Rights told Reuters he stood hy his own report, adding that be did not consider the Belgian inquiry

objective.
"In fact, we keep hearing more and more allegations. The Belgian investigation cannot be considered as reliable," Mr. De Waal said in a tele phone interview.

The defence ministry said Belgian troops bad killed 31 Somalis and wounded 28. This figure did not include deaths in clan combat situations where

Belgian troops had intervened.

Mr. De Waal said he believed at least 200 Somalis had been killed by Belgian troops, [14] but said it was bard to provide

an exact figure.

Mr. De Waai's July report described the Belgian force as being particularly brutal and hated as a virtual army of occupation in the port, which has often been u flashpoint of violence. violence.

Among incidents highlighted was an eye-witness report claiming Betgians had killed an armed man and dragged his body through the streets behind a tank. A live man was allegedly pulled 400 metres be-hind a military vehicle.

However, the Beigian defence ministry inquiry said these and other serious accusations were without substance.

"Sometimes there were minor incidents... but these were exaggerated, distorted or transformed into reprehensible deeds. In other cases, they amounted to pure and simple lies," the report said.

About 120 people, including Somalis and the military, were interviewed by the Belgian military investigators.

Outlining Western attitudes towards the Somalis, the inquiry said that in the eyes of many Westerners, Somalis were viewed as proud people who were often arrogant,

"The value and the price of human life has apparently another meaning than in the West. There is a sort of hanality of life and death," the report said.
Women and children are

often present in conflict situations and are sometimes used. as human shields, or throwers of grenades," it added.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Italian wounded in attack in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded an Italian businessman here Saturday in the second attack on a foreigner since the expiration of Tuesday's deadline by militants for foreigners to leave the country. Italian diplomatic sources said Aniello Castaldo was taken to 'Ain Naadja military hospital after being hit by three bullets as be left his home in the Birkhadem district. On Thursday, a Spaniard was killed south of Algiers in an attack blamed by Algerian authorities on "torrorists," a term officially used to designate anti-government Islamic fundamentalists. In Rome, the Italian foreign ministry said Mr. Castaldo, a businessman who specialises in coral extraction, was wounded in the face and chest.

### Libyan forces besiege rebel stronghold

CAIRO (AFP) — Troops loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi are still besieging the Bani Walid region southeast of Tripoli where rebels launched a revolt in October, a Libyan opposition leader said Friday. The Cairo representative of the opposition Libyan National Salvation Front (LNSF), Mohammadl Fayez Jibril, told AFP the situation remained tense in Bani Walid, 120 kilometres southeast of the capital where Colonel Qadhafi's forces had set up checkpoints in a bid to arrest the rebels. He said leaders of the Wariela clan based in the region . "recently rejected an offer by Colonel Qadhafi urging them to hand over the rebels still holed up in the region, in exchange for lifting the siege." The Warfela also turned down a request by Col. Qadhafi for them to organise a trial of the rebels in Bani Walid, Mr. Jibril added.

### Director of leading Iran newspaper resigns

TEHRAN (AFP) — The managing director of a leading Iranian newspaper. Kayhan, has resigned from his post, authoritative. sources said bere Saturday. A spokesman for Mohammad Asghari contacted by AFP confirmed his resignation, but said Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had turned it down. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, the directors of the two major newspapers — Kayhan and Etelaat — have been appointed by the country's spiritual leader. Mr. Asghari, who is close to the Islamic hardliners in Iran, was a member of parliament from 1987 to 1991. His resignation came amid several civil suits filed against Kayhan's Editor-in-Chief Medhi Nasssiri-Mr. Nassiri was summoned to the prosecutor's office on Aug. 28 following complaints from Chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, who accused the editor of writing negative commentaries: against him. Mr. Nassiri could face trial for several other law

### **JORDAN TELEVISION**

PROGRAMME TWO

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swe Tel. 8[0740]	
Assemblies of God Church, 632785	Tel
St. Joseph Church Tel 624590. Church of the Annuuciation 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	

Armenian Cathulle Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodux Church Tel. Sl. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Ammau International Church 7 652526. Evangelical Lutherau Chorch Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangetical Con-gregation Tel: 684195 gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Moderate weather conditions will prevail and winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas eatm. Nyaha ...... 12 / 24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amnun 19, Aquba 23, Humidily readings: Ammun 38 per cent. Aquba 48 per

# Church of the Annuuclation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 63/851. Tel. 62/8543.

#### WEATHER

### **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Mukhles Halasa 819221 Dr. Mukhles Halasa 819221 Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 819213 Dr. Jamil Maraqa 77/4149 Dr. Jamil Jbarah 847351 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 67/8336 Al Asema pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 644943 Shmeisani pharmacy 644943 Shmeisani pharmacy 6376612 Najib pharmacy 847632
(RStD: Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili (—) Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA: Dr. Ziyad J'aitem 1—1 Khalitch pharmacy 985417
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>
Food Control Centre

### Civil Defence Immediate

VC2CAC
Civil Defence Emergency
Reseue Police [92, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade
Fire Brigade
Highway Police
Traffic Police suction
Public Security Department
Hotel Complaints NI5891
Price Complaints 661 Co.
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints
Complaints
[2] [directory assistance]
Overseas Calls
Central Amnun Telephone
Repairs STREET
Abdali Telephone Reguns 651111
Jordan Television
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company
RJ Flight Information 08-53201
Queen Alia Intl. Aupert 18-53201

# HOSPITALS

### Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813-32 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642562 Malhas, J. Amman 650140 Pulesting Showinging 650140 | Palestine | Shmeisani | 0.541/31/4 | Palestine | Shmeisani | 0.641/31/4 | Shmeisani Hospital | 0.691/31 | University Hospital | 0.572/3/3 | The Islamic Absali | 0.0127/37 Amal Hospital ...... 674155 Zirga Govi. Hospital ... Zarqa National Hospital | 100 pitosot (bn Sma Hospital | 100 pitosot Al Hikma Modern Hospital | 100 putpon

Princess Basma (Iospital ... 1021275555 Greek Catholic Hospital ... 102127275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .... 1021247(0) QABAs Princess Haya Hospital . 105(314) 11 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** 

#### INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Ala International Airport Tel. (IS)5328-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10,35	Damascus (R1)
09:00	Damascus [RJ]
09:25	Limaca (RJ)
09-55	Duleu (DI)
10:00	Duhai [RJ]
10:30	Buhram, Doha [RJ]
14-45	Now York Association (N)
14.55	New York, Amsterdam [RI]
10:33	Cajiq [RJ]
1/:25	Paris, Brussels [RJ]
1/25	
18:00	···· ··· · Madrid, Geneva (R.)
18:35	Athena D15
19:30	Envelopme ( P) 1
19:50	Vicana [R1]
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#### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER Other Flights (Terminal 2) ..... Damascus | AZ) ..... Ahu Ohabi, Bahrain | GF| ..... Moscow (SU)

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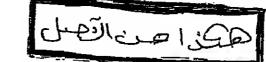
Other Flights (Terminal 2)

### Arr. Damescus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

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### King confers medals on former ministers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order on the former members of the Callinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Dr. Majali, who made the announcement to the Cabinet Saturday, said that ministers who are still serving in the government following the reshuffle of last Wednesday will also receive the medal. Seven ministers left the

Cabinet in the change which brought six first-time members to the Council of Ministers. Dr. Majali said the Al Kaw-

kah Medal was conferred in recognition of the ministers' efforts and their oustanding service to the nation.

With the decoration, said the prime minister, the King is urging all Cabinet members to step up their efforts and pursue the process of construction to attain the country's objectives. Praising the outgoing ministers for their endeavours. Dr. Majali said he was certain that the new Cabinet members would spare no effort in serving their country with equal enthusiasm. dedication and

He added that government would maintain links with them because of their vast experiences which would continue to serve the nation. Me a n w hile . ne wly-appointed Minister of Water and Irrigation Hisham Al Kha-

tib, who was abroad when the reshuffle tonk place, was sworn in at the Royal Court Saturday before King Hussein in the presence of Dr. Majali and the King's advisers.

Also sworn in before the King at the Royal Court Satur-day was Trad Al Fayez, the newly-appointed anthassador to Oatar. Present at the ceremony was Dr. Majali and Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

### Queen receives Mrs. Meri, Princess Shaharian at NHF

AMMAN IJ.T.) - Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday re-ceived at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Mrs. Helle Meri, wife of Estonian President Lennart Meri and hriefed her on the foundation's development mission and phi-

losophy.

Queen Noor and Mrs. Meri also discussed means of cooperation hetween NHF and Estonian development institu-

During a slide presentation. NHF Communication and Development Specialist Dr. Sinta Bahous said that the founda-tion, established in 1985, seeks to identify and meet different developmental needs in Jordan and introduce innovative and dynamic integrated community development models in the areas of family and community development, women, children, culture and heritage and

education.

Mrs. Meri said she was "impressed" by NHF's development projects, saying Estonia could cooperate with NHF. especially in the fields of the theatre, music and child health.

Also receiving Mrs. Meri at the foundation were NHF President In'am Mufti, members of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation's Director General Akram Kursha.

The Estonian president and Mrs. Meri arrived in Amman Thursday on a five-day visit

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Promoting Jorda-

nian tourism on the world

stage was the main topic dis-

cussed by American Society of

Travel Agents (ASTA) officials with the Ministry of Tour-

ism and Antiquities during a

short visit to Amman last

Executive Officer Earlene

Causey, and ASTA Director of

Government Affairs Barbara

O'Hara, visited touristic sights

in Jordan and discussed with

Minister of Tourism Moham-

mad Al Adwan ways to expand

Jordan's tourism industry.

promote its name in the U.S.

market on wide scale, and the

possibility of increasing the

number of nights American

tourists spend in the Kingdont.

that has good contacts with

travel agents worldwide and

conducts annual meetings with

the U.S. Congress which

should benefit Jordan's tourist

industry on an international

in 1931 and includes more than

ASTA, which was founded

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - In observance

of International Volunteer

Day 1993, Sunday, the

General Union of Voluntary

Societies (GUVS) this week

will implement general activi-ties and initiate projects be-

nefiting the needy in Jordan, according to GUVS Execu-

level." Dr. Adwan said.

d

'ASTA is a big organisation

according to Dr. Adwan.

ASTA President and Chief



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday receives Mrs. Helle Meri, wife of Estonian President

during which Mr. Meri held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and other issues.

Also at NHF. Queen Noor received Her Royal Highness

23.000 members in (30 coun-

tries, is the largest and most

influential travel trade associa-

tion in the world. It aims to

promote tourism, and help

countries, regions and cities

improve their tourism indus-

Its mission also includes en-

hancing the professionalism and profitability of member

agents through effective repre-

seniation in industry and gov-

ernment affairs, education and

training, and by identifying

and meeting the needs of the

industry in Jordan faces many

obstacles, one of which is lack

much advertising to speak off in the U.S., and it is important

to show people what Jordan

She said some governments

in the region are to be blamed

for ignoring that tourism is

important to their economies.

ments don't understand the

financial impact that tourism

could have on their econo-

Moreover, Ms. Causey stres-

sed that countries in the region

tive President Abdullah Al

Board Sunday will meet in

Zarga to honour veteran

members of voluntary

societies for their outstanding

services. Dr. Khatib told the

board will also lay the found-

ation to inaugurate seven

He said that the executive

Jordan Times Saturday.

The GUVS Executive

Khatib.

The sad part is that govern-

has. Ms. Causev said.

of recognition in the West.

Ms. Causey said the tourism

"Jordan has not done that

travelling public.

Princess Tunku Shaharian. daughter of the former Malaysian king and chairperson of the Muslim Women's Welfare Council in the Malaysian state

Princess Shaharian and an

must promote and advertise at

an international level to fight

negative propaganda, adding that Israel for example faces

the same circumstances in the

region, still, tourists are not

deterred from visiting Israel.

but Israel advertises constantly

and is always in magazines.

she maintained.

"Jordan is stable like Isruel.

"Jordan does not take the

same initiatives.... partly be-

cause it lacks the necessary

·funds and financial support as I

understood from the Jordanian

officials." said Ms. Causey.

Looking towards the future.

she said a peace agreement

hetween Arabs and Israel will

play a big role in boosting

"A peace accord is going to

make a big difference." she

said, adding that it will encour-

age more Americans to visit

Ms. Causey said it is impor-

Dr. Adwan said that Jordan

was asked to join an agreement

on establishing the East

Mediterranean Tourism Asso-

ciation (EMTA) signed recent-

Union of voluntary societies marks international day

different projects in the Zar-

qa governorate.
The activities to mark In-

ternational Volunteer Day

will extend for the entire

week, during which two new-ly-built rehabilitation centres

for the handicapped will be opened at Tafileh and

He said each of these cen-tres, set up by GUVS, has

Ajloun, Dr. khatib said.

tant to tie all the area together

in suitable package, and the peace process will serve the

tourism in the region.

the region.

Largest travel trade association seeks to promote Jordan

accompanying delegation were briefed on the development work and philosophy of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and discussed with NHF officials prospects for future coop-

ly by Israel. Turkey and Egypt.
"But we refused the affer because we tied it to the peace process." Dr. Adwan tuld the

He added that one of the

"Of course, the peace pro-

main tonics on the negotiuting

cess will have an immediate

impact on every facet of Jorda-

nian life and especially on tour-

ism because it will bring with it

many challenges, and we ought

to he prepared to face all possi-

bilities and to benefit from the peace process." Dr. Adwan

Ms. O'Hara who works closely with the U.S. govern-ment, said the West's negative

propaganda is paradysing tour-

ism in this region because it

builds fear. Tourists tend to

avoid visiting a certain country

because of one isolated inci-dent, she said, and ASTA is

trying to work with the U.S.

government to exclude politics

"We cannot take politics

out, but we are working on

convincing the government

that a small incident does not

mean that it is the case in all the countries." Ms. O'Hara

cost JD 100,000 and will be-

nefit the needy and handican-

ped children in the two areas.

the graduation of 42 volun-

teers who will work as liaison

officers for GUVS in what

Dr. Khatib called a credit

finance programme benefit-

ing income-generating pro-

In a statement issued on

jects in the Ma'an area.

This week will also witness

from tourism.

agenda was tourism.

Lennart Meri, at Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Jordan Times.

### pressure blamed for no rain

AMMAN (Petra) - The Department of Meteorology Saturday issued a statement saying that the so-called high Siberian pressure has prevented low depressions from affecting the eastern parts of the Mediterranean resulting in a three-week period of no

Department Director Ali Abanda said that the Siberian pressure was expected to move eastward as of Tuesday, making way for the low depressions to arrive in Jordan and other parts of the east Mediterranean

Normally, the rainy season begins towards of end of September in Jordan, lasting until the following May, but this year the rainy season started about mid-October and stopped in mid-November because of the effect of the Siberian pressure, said Dr. Abanda.

He said that as of Tuesday the country can expect its first low depression, bringing rain with high winds from the north of Europe. Only scattered thunder-

storms fell in several areas in the Kingdom since mid-November, mostly in Rweished and the eastern de-

sert regions, he said. Some of the rain falling in the desert in the past month cansed limited floods,

according to Dr. Abanda. The Department of Metreology Saturday said that light easterly winds will continue with temperatures ris-ing to 18°C during the day and dropping to nearly 5°C at night, but there would be almost no change in weather conditions from now and until Monday evening.

The ASTA officials were in-vited by Fuad Marmash, the

general manager of Sunrise In-

ternational Travel and Tour-

ism in coopeation with the

nominating Jordan in the

ASTA meetings so that Jordan

will be recognised worl-dwide,." Mr. Marmash said. Ms. Causey, who met with

the 31 ASTA members in Jor-

dan, said "people in Jordan

should convince their govern-

ment and the ministry to work

with our State Department and

with our advisors."
Meanwhile, the Jordan
News Agency, Petra, reported
Saturday that Dr. Adwan said

the ministry is planning to draw up a comprehensive study on tourism in Jordan and

means to develop the industry.

The minister emphasised the importance of continuous

cooperation and coordination

between all concerned parties,

including the public and pri-vate sectors, said Petra. He also insisted on the need

to increase public awareness of

the importance of tourism and

its advantage to the Kingdom's economic, cultural and social

the eve of International

Volunteer Day, the Ministry of Social Development said that Jordan has more than

700 voluntary and charitable

societies spread over the

country's various governo-

rates, and their members are

The ministry said that it

was closely cooperating with

estimated to total 75,000.

the volunteers.

"We are trying to work on

ministry.

### 'Siberian' Prime Minister to visit Japan U.N. meeting, talks with officials on itinerary

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali will visit Japan in the third week of this month to attend a U.N. meeting as well as to discuss Jordanian-Japanese relations and the Middle East peace process, officials said Saturday.

The officials said Dr. Majali will attend the Dec. 13/14 meetings of the International University Council, a group under the United Nations umbrella.

Dr. Majali, whose service record includes that of the presidency of the University of Jordan, is a member of the council.

At the council meeting. Dr. Majali will seek to create a programme for Jordanian students to visit abroad and meet with world leaders with a view of expanding their horizon of understanding of international affairs and offer firsthand information on Jordan, the officials said.

Dr. Majali will use the occasion of being in Japan to meet with semor Japanese government leaders, includ-ing his counterpart Moririto

Hosokawa, the officials said. The focus of Dr. Majali's official meetings will be Jordanian-Japanese relations and the Middle East peace process. Information Minis-



Abdul Salam Majali

ter Jawad Al Anani told the

Jordan Times. Included in the discussionswill he the Japanese role in the multilateral phase of the peace process and Tokyo's active participation as chairman of the regional working group on environment.

Japan has identified environment and water projects as its contribution to the twoyear-old Arah-Israeli peace process.

The working group met last in Cairo in October and one of the dozens of projects it discussed was a sharing of Red Sea pollution monitoring and data sharing among Jor-dan. Israel and Egypt.

A decision was taken at meeting that the three coun-

tries will share monitoring equipment as well as results of processed data with a view to taking prompt action to counter pollution in the Red

The Japanese government is expected to provide technical assistance to the project in the form of equipment and training for monitoring and data processing personnel. diplomats said.

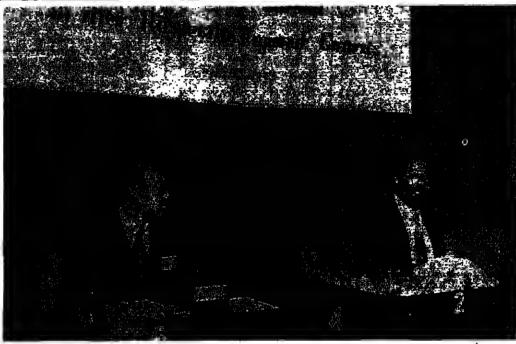
The amount of assistance has not been specified yet, they added.

Japan, which is also a member of the regional working group on water, is financing two pilot projects near the Dead Sea to explore possibilities of desalination as a means to address part of Jordan's water problems.

Japanese-Jordanian relations are traditionally strong. The Tokyo government extended \$750 million in soft loans to Jordan in the late 1980s and early 1990s, particularly to help the Kingdom to cope with the negative effects of the Gulf crisis of 199(1-91).

The Japanese government is expected to make a fresh loan of \$80 million to belo the Kingdom's energy sector to match a similar loan made hy the World Bank.

Dr. Majali will leave Amman on Dec. 10 and is expected to be hack home be-: fore Dec. 20.



Director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies Mustafa Hamarach (right) and at Hankuk University Jaemahn Suh Saturday

address the opening session of a two-day conference on 'Jordan and Korea in Their Respective

### Academicians study Jordanian, Korean political, economic models

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Korea, having had similar re-cent historic and political ex-periences and sharing similar economie circumstances in possessing few natural resources, were able to accom-plish qualitative achievements in numerous fields, especially in democracy and political re-forms, that could serve as an example to other developing nations, said Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) at the University of Jordan.

In opening a two-day conference Saturday entitled "Jordan and Korea in Their Respective Regional Contexts," Dr. Hamarneh said the conference seeks to contribute to building further cooperation between the two countries through the University of Jordan and Hankuk University in Korea which jointly organised the conference with the CSS. Current international de-

velopments justify the urgent need for a new method of thinking on the part of Third

World countries which should give more serious thought to economic planning, said Dr. Hamarneh.

Third World nations ought to strive for closer cooperation and show more solidarity at the regional and international levels, he added. Jaemahn Suh, director of

Hankuk University's Institute hf Middle East Studies, presented an overview on Jordanian-Korean relations. Professor Suh reviewed

Arab-Korean relations since the 11th century, noting that Korean-Jordanian relations date back to the 1960s, before the establishment of diploma-

He referred to the bilateral agreements in economic, tecbnological and cultural fields which he said would bolster bilateral ties.

In Saturday's first session, Sari Nasser, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, presented a working paper dealing with the role of universities in community development, citing the case of Jordan.

Professor Joung Rew, considered Korea's top Arabist with teaching experience in Cairo, spoke about "regional systems and developing countries."

According to Dr. Hamar-neh, topics on the meeting's agenda include several important political and economie subjects that "attempt to study each other's model without mediation, that is, academi-cians from both sides sitting face to face to discuss their respective experiences and thoughts."

The Korean delegation is headed by Professor Kang H. Lee, president of Hankuk Uni-

The 5-member delegation met earlier with University President Fawzi Gbaraibeh who expressed the nniversity's willingness to assist Hankuk University and other Korean universities in fulfilling their needs in their Arabic and other Middle East departments.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles). ☆ Exhibition of Lebanese products at Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Second Jordanian exhibition of cotton and woollen products at the World Exhibition Hall - University Road (11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of all family needs at Ai Nukhbah Exhibition Hall
   University Road (Tel. 837304).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Khalid Khreis at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of watercolours by artist Shaher Jirmi at the Goethe Institute.

#### FILMS

- ☆ Film entitled "Pinocchio" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (77 minutes).
- ★ Romanian film entitled "Adela," nt the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

#### LECTURES

Lecture by Dr. Mohammad Aziz Shukri, dean of Law College at the University of Damascus entitled "The American Age...Do We Coexist With It or Fight Against 11?" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

### 35 teachers attend 6-day special education seminar

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of education Saturday opened a seminar to train primary school teachers in special education for handicapped children at gavernment schools.

Participating in the six-day programme are 35 men and women teacher.

The sentinar will tackle par-ticular difficulties of handicap-

ped children and how to design special programmes for individual students as well as groups of students.

The week-long seminar is in intplementation of a 1993 law on providing special education to students with various learning disabilities according to Yousef Salch, head of a special education unit at the Ooeen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) which is co-sponsetring the seminar with the

Ministry of Education. Praising the on-gung coop-

eration between the ministry and QAF, Mr. Saleh said that joint programmes were also in line with the objectives of the 1987 National Educational Conference which called for attention to be given to handicapped children at government-run schnols. Under the joint program-

mes, the ministry and QAF ltave prepared educational kits for training these children in Arabic and mathematics as an initial stage; these will be discussed and analysed during the six-day sentitar.

The meeting was opened by Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masii who said that the 1987 confesence had called for concentrating efforts on improving the quality of education and meek ing the special needs of the

its cooperation.



# handicapped. Dr. Masri thanked OAF for

#### Khalaf Saturday attends the opening of a seven-day exhibition of Lebanese national products at the Philadelphia Hotel. On display are samples of garments, shoes, leather, silverware, cusmetics. emhroideries and blankets made in Lebanon. The exhibition was opened by Dr. Kha-laf and Lebanese Minister of State Anwar Al Khalil in the presence of Minister of State for Legal Affairs Khaled Al Zou'bi. The exhibition was organised by the Beirut Chamber of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the Lebanese Businessmen Association. The Lebanese minisarrived here earlier Saturday at the head of an economic delegation nn a two-

cooperation (Petra photo)

### **Jordan Times**

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### **Debate of purpose**

TODAY is the 12th Parliament's occasion to put to test Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's government's programme on the basis of which it may gain (or lose) the vote of confidence. The fact that the prime minister has invoked His Majesty King Hussein's Speech from the Throne, delivered at the opening of Parliament, as his political programme, does not and should not prevent deputies from scrutinising its platform. This should be done for three reasons. The Speech from the Throne was basically an enunciation of broad policy guidelines that left out much needed details. As a matter of fact, His Majesty's speech was intended to be just that: a principled presentation of the Kingdom's domestic and external policies that require amplification and elucidation. It is never the Monarch's mission to submit a detailed chart for the future. This is where parliamentarians can press the prime minister for much more detailed course of action for the upcoming years. Second, Dr. Majali and some members of Parliament may differ on the interpretation of the Speech from the Throne. Even when taken in its broadest terms, there is plenty of room for deliberation on the exact construction of words used. This is where the two branches of government can engage in a serious and faithful effort to reach exact meaning of the speech. Third, as long as scrutiny of the programme is conducted in a positive and constructive spirit, there can be no qualms about any spirited debate that could ensue. In the final analysis, what counts a lot is the way the denderations of Parhament are conducted and whether the issnes are debated by members of the society and their representatives in an objective and balanced manner.

On the other side of the coin, the Majali government, whose programme remains essentially unchanged even after the recent reshuffle, is associated with various policy decisions that Parliamentarians can take up issue with. For example, it was the Majali government that changed the law on elections and introduced the controversial one-person, one-vote criterion. Moreover, it is this prime minister that broke previous traditions, religiously observed during parliamentary life, by excluding members of the Lower House from any ministerial portfolio. There are many other internal and foreign issues on which the new government can also be examined. The field is wide open therefore to have a beneficial vote-of-confidence session even though the Speech from the Throne is the backbone of the debate.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday questioned the wisdom behind the recent Cabinet reshuffle. Those who left the Cabinet were good man and the performance of their duties was impeccable, said Tareq Masarweb. The prime minister did not reveal the reason behind the reshuffle and those who resigned their posts did not disclose the reason behind their move, said the writer. We do not have statistics about the number of the former ministers, but we hope that the government would in future obtain from resorting to shifting very efficient employees or judges from their present positions to become ministers, because their work is of vital importa nce, continued the writer. He said it is also hoped that the government would not resort to appointing former ministers as heads of public share-holding companies. We hope that the government would continue to abstain from giving deputies ministerial portfolios especially as long as the political parties have not yet succeeded in formulating their social, cultural, economic and political programmes which could justify their presence in a government, said the writer. He expressed bope that the new information minister would now reveal to the public the agreements which bave so far been conclude with the Americans and the Israelis in Washington. With this move. the writer added, one could understand the reason behind the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour commented on the vote of confidence in the present government, to be granted it by Parliament Sunday, saying that it is widely believed that the vote of confidence will be cast with a small majority. Taher Al Udwan said many people believe that because the government does not include any parliamentarians, it would be in a pour position to get a fairly large ma jority vote. He said that another reason for this expected result is the recent Cabinet reshuffle which the writer described as limited and minor since it did not affect the main portfolios of the interior or foreign ministries. The reshuffle therefore seemed to be in form not in substance and could not attract the support of the large majority of deputies, he added. The writer noted that the Kingdom's economy would be scrutinised thoroughly by the deputies, especially as Jordan is entering a new phase in which the eronomy would be of vital importance in view of the regional changes that are taking place and are still expected to take place in the new era.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Blockade on Aqaba only hurts Jordan

Notwithstanding the fact that the American administration took some time before nominating its new amhassador to Jordan — an important player in Middle Eastern affairs — I believe Wesley W. Egan Jr., who assumes his post under difficult circumstances, will face up to the challenges of different sorts that characterise the climate of political change of the area.

We know very little about the new American ambassador, but we sincerely hope that he will be an ambassador of goodwill, of friendship and understanding and that he will have the capacity to respect the feelings of this Jordanian Arab people, care about its interests and aspirations and furnish his government with constructive reports that extend the bridges of cooperation not knock them down.

Perbaps the first report the new ambassador is called upon to write to the State Department is about the American blockade against Aqaha. This blockade outlived its useful justification and should be called off without further delay, not only as a new start and a signal of good intentions, but also because it is meaningless as far as the economic sanctions

against the Iraqi people are concerned. The impact of the blockade is simply to hurt Jordan and cause huge losses to the Jordanian economy with no compensation whatsoever.

The continued blockade imposed on Aqaba bas only one meaning: that the American government does not trust the Jordanian government's pledge to abide by the Security Council resolutions. The assumption is that if Jordan is left alone, its government will either encourage illegal trade with Iraq or, at least, turn a blind eye, on those who violate the sanctions.

It is rather common knowledge that Jordan is practically the only state among the countries surrounding Iraq that adheres to the sanctions to the letter. The sanctions are completely ignored by the authorities in Syria, Turkey and Iran — Iraq can therefore buy anything if it can come up with the dollar to pay. No wonder that those with vested interests in Iraq left Jordan long time ago and set their businesses in Turkey.

Jordan long time ago and set their businesses in Turkey.
Yet, for the sake of argument, we shall assume that the
Jordanian government does not deserve to be trusted by

America, and that the Jordanian government does not do anything to prevent smuggling, and ask: in that case what is the use of blockading Aqaba if a major part of Jordanian imports comes through Lebanon, Syria or Turkey and is not subject to American inspection?

The sanction-busters do not need to be geniuses to avoid Aqaba and shift their trade to Turkish. Syrian and Lebanese ports where the American Sixth Fleet is not involved in intercepting ships and inspecting containers. Moreover, the imports to Jordan from ports other than Aqaba are tempting on their own, even without the blockade and perhaps even more so because of the blockade. The government of Jordan is in the process of imposing fines to convince importers to use Aqaba. Only legitimate imports to Jordan do suffer from the American blockade.

The new American ambassador could tell bis government the simple truth: The American blockade is hurting the Jordanian economy and damaging the American image in Jordan, but has no effect whatsoever on Iraq.

### The regional air power balance

By Muhammad Ziarati

The Middle East is often described as one of the most militarised regions of the world. Within this context, a major share of defence outlay is devoted to air powerhy states in the region. This emphasis is either manifest in military doctrine or evident from examining the trends of military procurement.

The central position of air power in Israeli military doctrine is well known. On the other hand, some two thirds of the \$75bn or so which six Arabia, Libya, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt] spent on modernising their armed forces in the second half of the 1980s was devoted to air power. Despite talks about curbing the infusion of excessive and sophisticated armament into the Middle East after the Gulf war, the region's military strategic landscape has since become no less complex, as a scrutiny of the air power modernisation plans of some of the important regional players in the 1990s clearly demonstrates.

Saudi Arabia

Given its extensive land borders and small population, the Saudis tend to rely on the firepower and inherent flexibility of air power to deteraggression and defend the country's land mass.

land mass.

Lessons drawn from the Gulf war have reinforced the Saudis' belief in the value of air power, not least in the need for long-range ground attack aircraft. The Gulf war has also demonstrated to the Saudis the vital role of "smart" munitions and aircraft that specialise in electronic warfare; it also seems to have heightened Saudi interest in enhanced aerial refuelling capability and additional mechanisms for better awareness and coordination of aerial operations over a

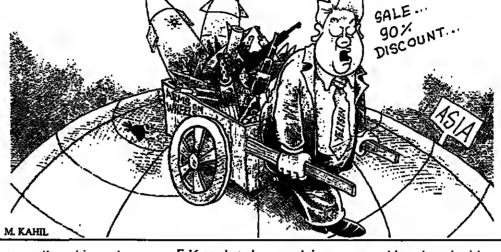
of aerial operations over a large battlefield. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had an immediate effect on the Saudi air inventory in terms of both complexity and size. In August 1990 the Saudis re-ceived 24 additional F15 aircraft with Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles. In September of the same year, as the first part of a two-stage deal with the U.S., the Saudis re-ceived inter alia 12 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters with an assortment of anti-tank Hellfire missiles; six batteries of Patriot missile air defence systems; eight UH-60 helicopters: seven KC-135 tanker aireraft: and ten C-130H transport aircraft.

Phase II of the deal, worth approximately \$14hn, has not been ratified because of the vehemence of congressional opposinon. This would have considerably enhanced Saudi military capability, including its air force, involving the sale of more combal aircraft, attack helicopters. Patriot missile bat-

teries and Awacs. The Saudis are concuttently concentrating on enhancing their ground artack and air-toair capability. The systems of their choice have been the U.S. F-15 and the British Tor-nado. The U.S. is to supply 72 F-15 XP aircraft, a scaled down version of the F-15E fighter, with less sophisticated air-toair missiles and avionics. The U.K. will provide 48 Tornados between 1995 and 1997. The Saudis are also likely to seek a substitute for the 160 F-5 light artack aircraft in their inventory, with the programme's cost running into billions of dollars. The Israelis are opposed to the acquisition of systems such as the F-15 E comhat aircraft and Apache attack helicopters by Saudi Arahia, primarily because of their stand-off anti-armour

Israel

The Gulf war has reinforced Israel's conviction in the importance of securing air superiority for winning wars, and the vital contributing role played



by "smart" munitions, electronic warfare and the need to suppress enemy air defences. The capability of allied aircraft to evade detection by enemy radar, and to conduct roundthe-clock operations, is also unlikely to he lost on Israel and fits in well with its notions of swift military victories. These are some of the operational and technological parameters which could influence he Israeli procurement effort in the 1990s.

In terms of specific air threats, the Israeli planners view with apprehension Arab air forces' upgrading. But particular concern is reserved for the modernisation of the Synan air force, which has led to its procurement of advanced air-eraft such as the MiG-29 and Su-2, electronic warfare equipment, sophisticated radar and siles. In 1991, the Israeli army took delivery of 19 Apache helicopters from the U.S., and agreement over the supply of 24 additional Apache helicopters has been reached. Furthermore, in order to gain better tactical mobility. the Israeli military is also planning to acquire possibly as many as 130 UH-60 Black Hawk transport helicopters. The U.S. has also supplied the Israeli army with ten CH-53A cargo helicopters worth \$13.6m.

The Gulf war has also led to the acquisition of 25 additional F-15 aircraft to the Israeli air force worth approximately \$130m. Although the F-15s are dual air-to-air and air-toground capable, the Israelis employ them primarily as air superiority aircraft. Hostilities in the Gulf have also srimulated an increase in the sophistication of Israel's surface-toair missile capability, with the U.S. Patriot air defence missile system. This is an area in which the Israeli capubility is likely to be strengthened in the 1990s. through the introduction of the Arrow system.

Syria

Hand-outs of up to \$2bn to Hafez Al Asad's regime by the oil-rich Arab Gulf states for the stance it took in the Gulf crisis have rejuvenated Syria's attempts to attain "strategic parity" with Israel. This policy, set in motion after the 1979 Camp David agreement and accelerated after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, to a large measure was given up by 1988

because of the cost.

The policy of "strategic parity" seeks to counterbalance perceived Israeli advantages in armour, air power and nuclear weapons, leading to massive Syrian investment to acquire tanks and anti-tank systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, air defence systems, surface-to-surface missiles and chemical weapons. Financial rewards from the Gulf have enabled Syria to revive this aim, hence its current defence spending spree.

With the notable exception of about 600 additional T-72 main hattle ranks from Russia and Czechoslovakia, all Syrian's acquisitions since the Gulf war have been aerial systems. It has ordered 48 MiG-29 combat aircraft, in addition to the 30 already in its possession. The MiG-29 is the closest Russian plane to the U.S. F-15 and

F-16 combat planes, and those in Syria's possession are equipped with a variety of guided air-to-air missiles which include the AA-10 Alamo with a 60-mile range. Damascus has also ordered, and apparently entered into service, 24 Su-24 bombers, which can fly at low altitudes. Syria, which possesses one of the densest air defence networks by regional standards, has also reinforced its SAM capability through the acquisition of additional SA-11 Gadfly missile batteries. Contacts have also been made with Russia for the purchase of high-altitude SA-10 SAM systems and a whole "array of other sophisticated radar and

command and control systems.

Although Syria has heen modernising its air force since the Gulf war, one must not lose sight of the fact that most of its equipment is technologically backward. Therefore, depending on the availability of funds and the direction of its relations with Israel, it might well decide to confinue with the modernisation of its airforce in the 1990s.

A further development with

implications for the balance of air power in the Middle East is the current Syrian effort not only to enhance its surface-tosurface missile (SSM) capability through the acquisition of systems with greater accuracy and range, but also to gain the means of manufacturing them. Syria relies on SSMs to counterbalance Israel's perceived aerial superiority. It has acquired the North Korean Scudand the Chinese solid-fuel M-9 missile, both of which have ranges of approximately 600km, carry higher pay-loads and are more accurate than any equivalent system in Syria's possession. Syria is now seeking Chinese and North Korean assistance for their indigenous production. The current Syrian military

modernisation is a source of much Israeli consternation. Syria's acquisition of additional high performance aircraft such as the MiG-29 means that Israel will have to devote more resources to maintain aerial superiority. Furthermore, missiles with greater range and accuracy, by enabling Syria to hit at the population centres and vital military installations such as air bases, could cause disarray and confusion in the lsraeli mobilisation effort in the opening stages of any con-flict. Although Israel has interpreted the current Syrian military build-up as a sign of belligerency, emphasis in this context must be laid on the objectives which the latter has pursued under the policy of "strategic parity". In peaceume, "strategic parity" is in-tended to enable Syria to negotiate with Israel from a position of strength. Given the current Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the latter aim is of particular relevance.

Iran

Iran's air force is still dependent on obsolete technology. The country's fleet of F-5 and F-4 combat aircraft; under programmes set in motion in the 1970s under the shah, were to have replaced with F-16s hy the early 1990s, much in the same way that the country's surface-to-air missile systems and air defence sensors, both

ground-based and airborne, were undergoing significant expansion. The revolution brought all those programmes to a halt in 1979. General Sattari, commander-in-chief of the Iranian air force, has stated that a 15-year modernisation programme was devised for the force in 1986, with the twin aims of making its organisation and weapons systems less de-pendent on U.S.-made components. But it is only recently that Iran has managed to find a reliable supplier in Russia. Iran has either received or signed agreements for the purchase of MiG-27/29/31s. Su-24s, Tupolev-22 bombers and Ilushyin-76 electronic surveillance aircraft. Apart from aircraft, agreements for the purchase of SA-5 Gammon Ifixed-site, high-altitude capable | SA-121 Gadfly and SA-134 Gopler surface-to-air missiles have also reportedly been

made with Russia. Egypt

Egypt has been engaged in modernising its air force and air defence capability since the 1980s, replacing its Soviet-dominated inventory with western equipment. This is a process which appears to be continuing in the 1990s.

In 1991, Egypt purchased about \$2.3 has worth of military.

continuing in the 1990s. In 1991. Egypt purchased about \$2.3bn worth of military equipment from the U.S., with the lion's share of it devoted to the improvement of the country's aerial strength. Under a \$1.6bn package the country purchased 46 additional Turkish-assembled F-16 C/D combat aircraft, the delivery of which will he completed by 1994. The package also included the supply of spare parts and related ordnance, such as Maverick air-to-ground mis-

Egypt is also implementing programmes to improve its air defence capability. Defence Minister Tantawi has indicated that the country's air defences have improved immensely since the Gulf war. In 1991, for instance, it spent \$146m on modification kits for 12 Hawk air defence missile systems and an additional \$70m on logistics

support. A cornerstone of the current air defence modernisation programme is the development of an automated command and control system with U.S. assistance, known as Programme 776, which should become operational this year or next. Few technical details have heen released about the programme, but it is known that, under it, everything from surface-to-air missiles to anti-aircraft artillery radars, including airborne data from Grumman E-2C Hawkeye aircraft, would be tied into a single network.

mes heing planned or implemented in the Middle East will ensure that the region will remain saturated with some of the most technologically advanced equipment. The willingess of Middle East states to pay in cash, combined with some genuine security worries, and the interest of foreign arms manufacturers to sell abroad, not least due to a shrinking domesuc demand, would undoubtedly accentuate the tendency towards the proliferation of hi-tech air power in the region in the 1990s—Middle East International.

In conclusion, the program-

### China leaves room to manoeuvre on Hong Kong row

By Andrew Quinn Reuter

BEUING — China's denunciations of Governor Chris Patten's plan to push political reform in Hong Kong ring with anger, but diplomats said on Friday Beijing has not boxed itself in as 1997 approaches.

Mr. Patten slammed the ball down China's throat on Thursday by announcing he would submit a partial preferee of his

day by announcing he would submit a partial package of his electoral reforms to the colony's Legislative Council on Dec. 15 despite lack of agreement with Beijing.

Chinese officials were quick

Chinese officials were quick to sputter foul, but diplomats say Beijing now seems to be weighing its next response; slam the political ball back, give it a graceful lob or simply walk away from the game, "I don't think the Chinese

know quite what to do next,"
one western diplomat said,
"They are all expressing
righteous indignation, but it is
muted righteous indignation.

They are still thinking."

The first indications from Beijing did not look promising for Sino-British cooperation in the run-up to July 1997, when China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong's six million neople.

Proclaiming the sevenmonth effort to reach an acceptable compromise all but over. Chinese officials squared their shoulders and let loose at London.

Lu Ping, head of the cabinet's office of Hong Kong

and Macau affairs, lectured reporters at length late on Thursday, saying Mr. Patten's move had exposed Britain's utter untrustworthiness as a negotiating partner.

Saying Mr. Patten's proposal for another round of talks "was merely a pretense and the play of tricks," Mr. Lu said London had never wanted the negotiations to succeed and had deliberately set out to sabotage them.

"We shall not be taken in,"
Mr. Lu was quoted as saying
by the official Xinbua News

Foreign ministry spokesman' Wu Jianmin echoed Mr. Lu's disgust and hinted darkly that the wider range of Sino-British ties, including trade, would be affected by the collapse of negotiations.

A spokesman for China's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, the local branch of the Kinhua News Agency, said Mr. Patten's move had violated. "an important political principle" and represented a very serious step to undermine cooperation.

Despite the predictable expressions of rage, diplomats said China's response to Mr. Patten has been heavy on implied threats but light on actual

come — if at all — when Mr. Patten actually presents his partial reform bill to the legislature, they said.

all acc

LETTERS

### Red tape hampers research

To the Editor

I am a Jordanian Ph.D. candidate at the London School of Economics. I have been in Amman for the past 10 months in order to conduct field research for the dissertation entitled "The Determinants of Female Labour Force Participation: The Case of Single Women Workers in Amman, Jordan." I am writing in order to convey my three months' experience in trying to obtain a "permission" to be able to conduct a survey that will include 300 households in the city of Amman.

My research methodology, as approved by my supervisors, was that it would be based on the Department of Statistics 1991 Employment. Unemployment and Poverty Survey. The first part is a statistical review of the findings concerning my target group and the second is a suh-sample from the original survey where I would be able to revisit households interviewed in 1991. Initially this was approved by the research department at the Department of Statistics.

After obtaining and analysing the raw data of the abovementioned survey. I needed to obtain the sub-sample. At this point, there were several time-consuming requirements that I had to fulfill hut which I willingly conceded to given the fact that it is the policy of the Department of Statistics to protect personal information of those families interviewed in their surveys.

Subsequently, I was supposed to obtain a permission from the Ministry of Interior for a security clearance. It was at this point that I began encountering the difficulties which I would like to convey. The ministry sent my application to the General Intelligence, the Military Intelligence and the Public Security which in its turn—sent it to the Criminal Investigations Department and the Preventive Security Department. It was beyond any of my expectations to be summoned to the Criminal Investigations Department to justify my research. Furthermore, all four of my research assistants had to go through similar circumstances. Encountering in the process complex and similar circumstances.

ing in the process complex and time-consuming difficulties.

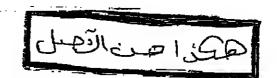
Due to these complications I am already delayed from my scheduled return to my university. I have been advised time and again by friends and family who saw my frustration to forget this scientific and random method and look for an alternative, but I have persevered due to my personal commitment to conduct my work in abidance with scientific research methodology.

The Ministry of Interior may be justified in having records on researchers. I was convinced that having an official permission was also for my own good and I did not consider bypassing it. However, there needs to be a standard procedure in dealing with cases like mine instead of going in circles for months from one department to the next and being subjected to outright harassment both as a researcher and as a woman. I am committed to contributing to the development of Jordan and this is at the basis of my arthritise.

I am committed to contributing to the development of Jordan and this is at the basis of my enthusiasm tri base my dissertation on my country. Having said this. I would venture to say that my experience has been a demoralising one and I fear it could have the same dispiriting impact on other Jordanian researchers in similar circumstances. I feel that this incidence is actually counterproductive to our national policies that are concerned with both human resource development and safeguarding individual human rights.

Mary Kaware





### **Features**

# Women have a vital role in enabling the family to function

Following is the address delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan in Malta at the World NGO Forum, launching the International Year of the Family, on Nov. 30, 1993:

#### Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to be asked to deliver a keynote address at the World NGO Forum, launching the Internutional Year of the Family. I hope, in the tew minutes available to me, to contribute to your debate by putting forward some thoughts on the future of the family. focusing on the role of women. and looking in particular at the Muslim World.

The family is a uniquitous institution. Across the world and throughout history, it has been the hasie unit of society. It has taken a wide variety of forms — from extended clan structures to the single-parent family — while the roles and functions it performs in different societies are equally diverse. It has proved to be a flexible entity, capable of responding and adapting to the ever-changing demands of circumstances. Indeed, in spite of the many social upheavals that have affected its character, it continues to provide the only natural framework for moral and material support, Clearly a family's support system is particularly essential to children, the elderly and the disabled. but actually, it is vital to the health and growth of all human beings, and consequently to the well-being and successful development of society as a whole. Indeed, so complex and so delicate are the functions of the family that the philosopher Montaigne was moved to observe: "There is scarcely any less bother in the running of a family, than in that of an entire state."! But I would like to add it is the most worthwhile

 $\mathbf{r}_{0w}$ 

If the family is the basis of society, what is the hasis of the family? I would like to argue that it is women: it is they who play the central role enabling the family to function - indeed, to continue to exist. And it is therefore necessary to concentrate on women when considering the status and future of the family as a social unit. This is not to deny our wish, that men be encouraged to assume their full responsibilities within the family, but only to accept that for the time being, in the great majority of communities the world over women will have to be the main focus of any efforts to

support and protect the family. Again, this is not to set aside any long-term agenda for positive change and development. hut merely to acknowledge and work within a set of existing circumstances.

Given these realities. women must then he the main recipients of the support directed to the family. Whether they elect to be homeworkers to the exclusion of all else, or whether they assume a dual responsibility in the home and workplace, this support will help ensure that

implement appropriate educational and legislative strategies, we should neither neglect nor undermine the values that certain communities and societies attach to motherhand and the family. stemming from their religious and cultural hentage, or from unique social considerations.

Solutions must therefore be tailored to specific needs in this field as in all others. How often have we seen the failure of systems that are imported wholesale without regard to the particulars of culture and

"As a cardinal principle, I would like to make it clear that I am for people — in this case, women - making their own choices and decisions on the issues that touch their lives. A woman should always be free to choose ber path in life, whatever that may be. But it should be an informed and freely taken choice, one which, in the spirit of democracy, reflects her personal aspirations, desires and needs. As such, I believe that education is the key to women's success in making the right choices."

women can meet the needs and expectations with which they are almost solely entrusted. I would like now to examine some of the ways in which women can be aided in this endeavour.

#### Ladies and gentlemen,

As a cardinal principle. I would like to make it clear that I am for people - in this case. - making their own choices and decisions on the issues that touch their lives. A woman should always be free to choose her path in life. whatever that may be. But it should be an informed and freely taken choice, one which, in the spirit of democracy, reflects her personal aspirations. desires and needs. As such, I believe that education is the key to women's success in making the right choices.

Having made this point and I intagine that few here would take issue with it - it would then seem self-evident that women must be supported in choosing whether they will have a family, when they will have it, and how many children it will comprise. For every child should be a wanted child: and after childhirth, women should, continue to receive assistance, whether they choose solely to be homemakers or also to take on the challenges of a career outside their home. Only a sustained effort through education and realisation of this objective. In seeking to formulate and

territories in thier entirety

without distinguishing be-tween the West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said.

understanding reached with

Israel "refers to the Gaza

Strip, but legally we need to

negotiate a separate accord,"

said the senior official. "But

we don't expect any major

problems; an agreement

could be reached soon."

According to an official quoted by Reuters, the

memo of understanding pro-

vides for the conversion of all

foreign currency entering the

occupied territories to be

converted into Jordanian dinars, not Israeli shekels as Israel bad insisted in the negotiations that led to the

The official was quoted as

saying that the accord gives CBJ total responsibility for

inspection and control of all

branches of Jordanian com-

mercial banks closed in 1967

"Israel will have a very

and control of credit.

The memoraudum of

its sensibilities? It is vital to build upon existing structures. to encourage a process of nurtured evolution, rather than an

engineered revolution.

Firm foundations for the family as a central social structure exist in most cultures. In the Arab Islamic tradition. motherhood and family are sacred. The Prophet Moham-mad said: "The hest of you hefore God and His creation are those who are best to their own families." Arabian society at the time of the Prophet revolved around the linked concepts of the family and the tribe. The complex social networks of the culture are reflected and built upon in the theology of Islam. Its serinture, the Holy Koran, deals at some length with family-related issues, such as the status of widows and orphans, and provides detailed instructions on questions of marriage, inberitance, and the relationship between members of a family. Indeed, the Holy Koran addresses these family-related issues at greater length than any other earthly matter, indicating the primacy which they enjoy in Islamic culture.

There is, of course a difference between the ideal and the actual. While Islam makes numerous provisions for the protection of women's rights. few of these are generally known, and consequently even fewer are practised, despite the injunction of the Prophet Mohammad who said: "The

rights of women are sacred, see that women are maintained in the rights assigned to them". For instance, Muslim women are empowered, by contract, to stipulate their marriage condition. Unfortunately, they are rarely aware that they are entitled to do so, although this knowledge is crucial to their entering into the state of matrimony with all its inherent responsibilities, with the best chance of success.

The gap between theory and practice is significant also when considering how to achieve a balance between the demands of traditional families and the aspirations of the younger generations. This is one of the most complex issues facing the Arab family today. The winds of change blow, even in societies that are most conducive to family health and wellbeing. Economic, social and demographic processes have combined to diminish the ability of families to meet the needs of their members and their functions within society as a whole. The key to tackling this dangerous worldwide trend lies not only in the education of women, but in the guarantee of equal rights for women and especially political rights. It is vital that women give their input on legislation affecting their own status and role. Full participation in legislative affairs is crucial for the education and development of women and, in turn, the wel-

some commentators justifiable cause for alarm. The developing world does not yet face this latest turning point in human

fare of the family and the wider society. Laws are a powerful tool and the legal reference they provide for women sets the tone if not the pace for social change. For laws, by their nature as publicly accessihle rules, form and limit the way, in which ordinary people view the family and their role

When dealing with a society which has a firm religious basis, such as exists in the Islamic nations, it is vital that existing values he huilt upon. and not be allowed to disinteseek and find employment out-side the home must be given sufficient support to ensure that the responsibilities they assume do not adversely affect the health and well-being of their families. I am thinking here of a variety of legal provisions, such as a minimum but compassionate maternity leave, and a sufficiency of créches and nurseries in workplaces, which would allow a parent to continue with both a career and functioning as a responsible family memher. But at the same time, society as a whole should not look askance at women who take the informed and educated decision to devote themselves to the care of their family and home. Rather, the objective must be to provide all women with the necessary help to make their particular choice a This raises the question of the relationship between the

grate under the pressures of

modernisation and the call for

u greater role for women with-

in the workforce. Of course.

women in these societies that

family and the state. In many so-called developed societies, the state is rapidly taking over functions traditionally associated with the family. Fragmentation of families, and the rise of secularism, has given

"When dealing with a society which has a firm religious basis, such as exists in the Islamic nations, it is vital that existing values be built upon, and not be allowed to disintegrate under the pressures of modernisation and the call for a greater role for women within the workforce. Of course, women in these societies that seek and find employment outside the home must be given sufficient support to ensure that the responsibilities they assume do not adversely affect the health and well-being of their fami-

> relations, but it is well worth considering in advance how hest to continue this drift. The state can play a valuable auxiliary role, for example through the medium of social security: for a family that has limited resources cannot be expected to cope with the additional financial burden of caring for

its elderly or infirm members. However, we should not seek to replace family functions by institutionalising their support mechanisms. We should mereenable families to cope with the challenges of a contempor-

have become less supportive of the family as a basic unit. efforts should be made to  $\epsilon$  hance the image of the moth r as homemaker. This would help to reverse the negative connotations that have been attached to women who choose not work outside their homes. and mitigate the adverse impact of modernisation on the functioning uf the family and the values traditionally associared with it. A search for cultural, religious, social and practical justifications for the sup-

average for our region. The Jordanian success story is wellknown and at its heart lies no miracle, but a simple formula derived from hasic principles, that being the concept of equality between males and females as regards compulsory schooling, allied to the provision not only of free education. but in a variety of forms to suit the social, cultural and religious sensitivities of a varied population. Thus parents of both boys and girls were empowered to choose the style and manner of education that was

"It is not sufficient just to provide a minimum level of schooling: women must subsequently be allowed and encouraged to use their education wheresoever they choose. In Jordan, employment opportunities, terms and conditions were by law made equal. We have sought a balance between the demands of development and the traditional values of our society, believing that an educated population is best able to make its own decisions. The state can provide material support, particularly with infrastructure, but it must not seek to determine or regulate the lives of its citizens."

port of the multi-faceted role of women must be attempted. I am well aware that some of these recommendations may appear to go against the grain of modernity as it is often presented. But modernity should not mean the end of choice. The feminist enterprise, in East and West alike, has opened the way for women to make choices regarding their lifestyles and goals. The object of feminism has throughout been to empower women to make their own decisions and to provide a full. range of opportunities for them, barring none. Those opportunities must include family-centred occupation, just as they must include the full range of possibilities in the workplace. In this endeavour, the role

of education continues to be crucial, and no efforts will succeed without it. It is possible. through national curricula, to enhance the standing of women and the family, by promoting the positive values that a balanced society must attach to both. But how can this, kind of change can be hrought about in practice?

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like here to draw upon the experience of my own country. Jordan. Lacking in many resources. Jordan has viding its population with edu-cational facilities far above the most appropriate in the circumstances, whilst being legally obliged to ensure that their children were somehow educated within the framework of

the compulsory cycle. Through education, the status and role of women in Jordan has been elevated to meet the demands and challenges of the changing times. Indeed, we recently witnessed the election of our first female member of Parliament. Our focus on education has also laid the ground for improvements in Other areas, such as health care. Obviously children brought up by an educated mother with a concern for her family's physical and emotion-al health will ultimately seek in their turn to rear happy and healthy families. However, it is not sufficient

just to provide a minimum level of schooling: women must subsequently be allowed and encouraged to use their education wheresoever they choose. In Jordan, employment opportunities, terms and conditions were by law made equal. We have sought a balance between the demands of development and the traditional values of our society, believing that an educated population is best able to make its own decisions. The state can provide material support, particularly with infrastructure. but it must not seek to dete mine or regulate the lives of its

This belief can lead to difficult decisions when attempting to formulate long-term plans on issues that go beyond the individual, or even beyond # country or a region, but are properly the concern of all mankind. The prevalence of drugs, disease and famine, the control of population growth and the maintenance of the environment are powerful examples of such trans-national concerns. However, even when dealing with problems of this scale, a focus on the family can be of value.

For the keys to population

growth control and environ-mental stability lie in sustainable development. And again the path to this lies in education, health and the improvement of economic conditions: objectives which can be tackled through the conduit of the family. Family planning, for example, can help break the cycle of poverty. Likewise, drug abuse can ultimately be dealt only with by addressing the users; and here, the support of the family will always be necessary. And I have already shown how investment in the education of women can help control the spread of diseases and promote family health. In all of these areas. there are occasional hopeful signs that the world is increasingly willing to invest in human resource development. rather than in the false security that is hought by military spending. The cycle of unemployment, poverty, population growth and environmental degradation can be broken; but only if a fundamental rethink of priorities is carried out unilaterally across the world, A vital part of this task must be the promotion of the inherent strengths of families. It is through the family that the generations of the future will. learn their values and their norms. For in the words of the poet John Milton: "The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day,"

#### Ladies and gentlemen,

From my short stay in Malta. can see how entirely appropriate it is that the World NGO Forum has chosen this island nation in which to launch the International Year of the Family - for the family is at the heart and soul of the Maltese people. It is their most effective shield against the encroachment of so many ills. I wish the government of Malta every success in their eneavours — as you who are participating in this vital conference.

### Draft accord key topic ownership. The Jordan-PLO draft accord refers to the occupied

#### (Continued from page 1)

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Majali said that such coordination was important, especially that the Palesti-nian-Israeli accord is entering its implementation stage.
"President Arafat's visit to

Jordan will no doubt provide a good opportumity to lay the foundation for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship during the upcoming Palestinian transitionary period," Dr. Majali told Petra.

Under the Sept. 13 accord, Israel is expected to hegin a four-month military withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13, but doubts bave been cast whether this deadline could be met since the Israel-PLO negotiations on implementation of the accord have run "We have been informed

that Mr. Arafat wants to sign the accord, and we hope the document will indeed be signed during his visit this week," said a senior official.

The official noted that Jordan and Israel had signed a memorandum of understanding on reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied West Bank under Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) supervision and con-

The actual implementation of the memorandum, which the Cabinet reviewed Saturday, largely depends on coordination with the PLO through the envisaged protocol on economic coopera-

The official said Jordan and Israel would have to negotiate another memo of understanding to allow Jordanian banks to open branches in the Gaza Strip since, in principle, Jordan did not have direct control of banking in the strip prior to

All banks in the Gaza Strip were guided and supervised by Egypt, which controlled the area until Israel occupied it in the 1967 war, and Egyptian banking rules were the only regulations applicable to the banks regardless of their

### Settlers hit Hebron again

#### (Continued from page 1)

stones at houses in Hebron, heavily damaging at least three, residents said. Mazen Da'ana said he saw a

group of settlers set up a roadblock and stop a car with an Israeli licence plate north of Hebron near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.
"One of them checked out

the ID cards of the passenger. One settler struck the driver and another shot two bullets, one of which hit the passenger sitting next to the driver," be

Talal Al Bakri. 54, was criti-cally wounded in the bead, army and residents said. The army said in a statement that a border policeman arrested a settler involved in

On Friday soldiers stood by without intervening when set-tlers went on the rampage in Hebron and wounded at least three Arabs after Palestinian stoned a leading settler's car. A Reuter cameraman filmed settlers firing automatic weapons and pistols directly into a crowd of Palestinian

small role," the official told the agency. "It will mainly receive regular reports from these banks on their operastone-throwers at a range of about 50 metres while soldiers ran away.

During Saturday's incident two Arabs, an elderly man and tions, exactly like the reports of foreign banks operating in woman standing near the roadblock, were slightly in-Jordan routinely send to Jordan's Central Bank."

The Amman Marriott Hotel and Aramex International Courier have signed a mutual agreement through their customer service oriented philosophy. For both the

Amman Marriott and Aramex, this agreement is a step

Amman Mari out and Arames, this agreement is a step towards achieving their 1994 objectives and is a commitment towards customer satisfaction. It provides their

customers with the types of services expected and

required throughout the market.

jured, Palestinians said. Hebron in the only town in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where Jews have settled in the middle of a

Palestinian population.
The PLO Executive Committee condemned the rampage by Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and said it had "decided measures which guarantee the safety of our

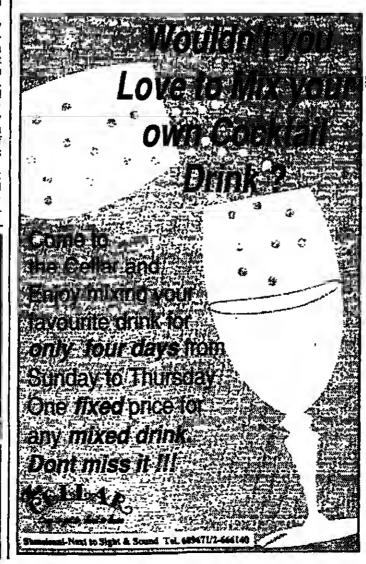
people..."
Hanan Asbrawi, spokes-woman for the Palestinian delegation at the Middle East peace talks, nrged Israel to stop the settler attacks which she said undermined the

Dr. Ashrawi said the settlers' tatest attacks in Hebron were "extremely serious and

worrying."
"The settlers' aggression undermines the accord," Dr. Ashrawi said. "We appeal to the Israeli

government to end the settlers' actions and fulfil its responsibilities," she added.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171



### Christopher ready to help if asked

#### (Continued from page 1)

tinuing direct dialogue with Mr. Assad and a U.S. official accompanying Mr. Christopher suggested a Clinton-Assad meeting could be under

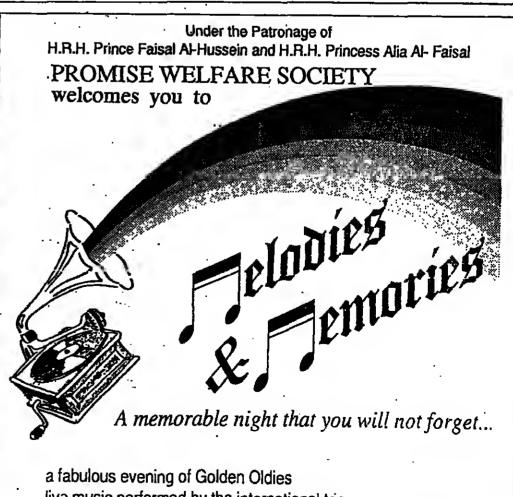
consideration. Mr. Israel television said Mr. Christopher would convey a message from Mr. Clinton to Mr. Assad and his response could result in a meeting. Israeli Foreign Minister Shl-mon Peres said Israel will not withdraw from all of the

Golan Heights but might return part of the strategic plateau to Syria.

Mr. Peres made the statement before a meeting scheduled on Sunday with Mr. Christopher.

"We have announced that ... we do not rule out the principle of withdrawal," Mr. Peres told Israel Television, "although we did not say from all the

Mr. Christopher arrived in Israel on Friday and is expected to fly to Damascus after meetings on Saturday and



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### **EC** jobless will equal population of three countries

BONN (R) - Unemployment in the European Community v(EC) will be the equivalent of the combined populations of Belgium, Denmark and Ireland next year, the Europeao Commission's top civil servant said Friday.

Commission Secretary-General David Williamson said the Community needed to restore econnmic growth and \_make its labour markets less

rigid in order to create more jobs.
"We expect that next year the number of unemployed people in the Community will be equivalent to the total population of Belgium, Denmark and Ireland together," he said in a speech in Bunn. That is a fact which doesn't

seem to have quite registered."

More than 17 million people are already out of work in the Community and the figure is forecast to top 20 million next year as economies shrink by 0.4 per cent this year and grow by only 1.3 per cent in 1994.

Mr. Williamson said econonic growth would not pick up overnight but the Commission believed it was possible to return to the strong growth rates of the late 1980s by the year

"We did not create enough jobs. We created a lot and we can do it again. We are convinced that it can be done if we have sound economic policies and pulicies which divert more money into investment," he

ےaid. But growth alone would not create new jobs. The United States and the EC had had similar growth rates over the last 17 years but the U.S. had created millions more jobs than Europe.

"We put more in our pockets and they bave put more into jobs. It's simplifying, but that is in fact that what bas happened," he said.

Creating new jobs meant making labour markets more flexible, reducing barriers to short-time working, boosting training and cutting heavy direct taxes and social charges which were a disincentive for employers to give work to the lower paid.

approaches to labour practice and to taxation and so on, without changing the overall level of public expenditure for this reason, we can still create thore jobs. There is no doubt at all about it. Mr. William-

son said.

He acknowledged that many of the new jobs created in the United States had been at very low real wages, leading to the phenomenon of the so-called working poor. This approach would not find

### **U.S.** economy strengthens

WASHINGTON (R) - The U.S. unemployment rate fell sharply last month to its lowest level in nearly three years, the government said Friday, providing oew evidence along with other reports that the economy

is gaining strength. In the government's first look at the economy's performance in November, the Labour Department said 208,000 non-farm jobs were created last month, up from 147,000 in October. In the past year 1.9 millioo jobs were created.

But the most surprising aspect of the report was a jobless rate drop from 6.8 per cent in October to 6.4 per cent last montb, the lowest level since January 1991.

"The economy is showing solid growth," said economist Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "It's not explosive growth. But it's bet-ter than the subdued tepid growth that we've had for so

long."
At the same time, the Commerce Department reported that in October orders for manufactured goods grew and the government's main economic forecasting gauge also rose, both for the third month

"All the reports that came in were uniformly indicating that

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakh-

stan and seven Western com-

panies agreed Friday to explore for oil in the Caspian Sea, opening the door to what

could be the biggest offshore production area since the North Sea came on stream.

The former Soviet republic,

represented by the state oil

company and project operator

Kazakhstankaspiyshelf. for-

mally established a consortium

to tap une of the most promis-

ing unexplored petroleum re-

The agreement established a

consortium involving British Gas PLC. Total S.A.. Royal

Dutch/Shell Group, AGIP SPA, Mobil Corp., British Pet-ruleum (B.P.) Co., PLC and

"We expect great results."

Kazakhstankaspiyshelf Presi-

dent Boltabek Kuandykov told

a news conference after the

According to the most con-

servative estimates, we expect

oil reserves of 3.5 billion ton-

nes and gas reserves of 1.5 trillion cubic metres. But re-

serves could be much greater."

The multi-billion-dollar pro-

ject, due tu start production in

2001 after an initial phase con-

centrating on geophysical stu-

dies and environmental issues.

is Kazakhstan's most ambitious

foreign investment initiative.

ern part of the Caspian shelf is

greater than that of the west-

ern Tengiz field, where prob-

The potential uf the north-

gions in the world.

Norway's Statoil.

signing ceremony.

Kazakhstan, Western

ment.

companies sign big

Caspian oil deal

the economy has accelerated in late 1993 and they all show that strength continuing," said eco-RI/McGraw-Hill consulting

1 rm in Lexington, Mass. The reports encouraged Clinton administration officials, including Labour Secretary Robert Reich, who dropped his refrain that the economy is in a "jobless recovery" and declared, "we are now io a jobs recovery.

The bond and stock markets initially reacted negatively to the reports as traders feared that signs of a strengthening economy might prompt the Federal Reserve (Fed), the U.S. central bank, to tighten credit. But private economists, noting inflation remains under control, said they expect no imminent moves by Fed policymakers to raise interest rates.

"They won't pull the trigger, but this fourth quarter strength is sufficient to get the Fed to cock their pistol." said eco-nomist John Williams of Bank-

The Labour Department's monthly survey of households showed that the number of people with jobs jumped by 2.9 million in the past year, including 924,000 in the past two months, to a total of 120.4

able reserves of at least two

billion tonnes are being de-

veloped by a joint venture in-volving U.S.-hased Chevron

due largely to Russian refuct-

ance to transport Tengiz out-

put hecause of sulphur prob-

Friday's agreement, calling for geophysical and environ-mental studies, was signed by

vice-presidents and other

senior representatives of the

Western companies invulved.
Each was given a traditional
"chapan" cloak, gold-braided
and emblazoned with the

Kazakhstankaspiyshelf

the results of very tough nego-

tiatiuns. I'm sure the outcume

will be judged by the rest of the

world as very fair to Kazakh-

stan." said B.P. expluration

vice-president Ed Whitehead.

"The agreement represents

emblem.

At the same time, the number of people out of work last month fell by a sharp 534,000 to 8.3 million, it said.

Some economists cited an unusual decline in the labour force - people with jobs and those seeking work - as evidence that some idle workers in economically depressed states like California may have stopped looking for work for now. That would bave helped reduce the jobless rate.

The Commerce Department said orders received by factories rose a strong 1.2 per cent in October to a seasonally adjusted \$258.4 billion after a 0.7 per cent September increase.

Sbipments rose to a record 260.2 billion, while unfilled orders fell to the lowest level since June 1988.

In another report, the Commerce Department said the index of leading indicators, designed to forecast economic trends six to nine months ahead, rose 0.5 per cent in October after a 0.2 per cent

gain in September.

The index — the government's main economic forecasting gauge - measures a basket of indicators from unemployment benefit claims to building permits. Nine of its 11 components were stronger in

# Austria believes Jordan could be key bridge to Palestinian market

### Trade mission starts talks with Jordanian businessmen

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austria believes that Jordan is the key hridge to the Palestinian market both in the short and long terms, and that helief is behind the visit of a big Au-strian delegation of manufac-turers and exporters to the Kingdom, senior Austrian officials said Saturday.

In addition, Jordan can help Austria gain access to some Arah markets while Austria can act as a link between Jordanian exporters and Eastern European markets, they said.

Fritz Langer, director of the Middle East desk at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber who is leading a team of 24 Austrian indus-trialists and husinessmen for two days of discussions with Jordanian counterparts, said: "Once peace is established, there will be great opportuni-ties for business since (occupied territories) will have a great need for infrastructure

and new industries." And Austria can offer the technical expertise, the equipment and limited financing for such projects and has proved its might in this field in Europe, Dr. Lan-

"We helieve that Jordan will be the key bridge to the Palestinian market and an effective force to building the Palestinian economy." said. "That is why we are here, listening, discussing and reviewing possibilities.

Austria has traditiunally strung relations with must Arah countries, which account for a substantial part nf Austrian exports, Dr. Lan-

He said Austrian husinesses were also follow-ing up contacts with Palestinian husinessmen from the pecupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but his comments indicated a belief that the chances of doing business are much better through Jordan than direct contacts.

We understand from Jordanian husinessmen that they are on a wait-and-see mode" in the context of economic husiness links with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Langer said. But, he said, it is essential to be prepared beforehand to avail of opportunities whenever they present themselves rather than making last-mi-

nute plans. The Austrian delegation opened talks at the Regency Palace Hntel Saturday with Jordanian industrialists and importers as well as service-

oriented husinesses.

Representing 24 Austrian companies, the delegation members are offering industrial supplies, agricultural technology and construction

equipment. Most Austrian companies are small to medium in size and are "very flexible" in meeting the needs of customers. Dr. Langer said, adding that in view of the small size of Jordan such husinesses were best suited to Jordanian

More than 400 meetings were scheduled with Jordanian huisnessmen on Saturday and Sunday, with hopes high that concrete projects could materialise from the

dustrial ventures. Dr. Lauger specifically

mentained the presence in the delegation of two experts who are offering water freatment equipment and technology and noted that their expertise and equipment were of significance to Jordan as well as other countries in the region in view of the scarcity of water and the need to address shortages through other means such as re-

The delegates are scheduled tu meet with Ministry of Water and trigation offi-cials to present a briefing on what they could offer and how their uffer could fit into Jondan's water strategies and pringrammes, said Dr. Michael Angerer, commer-cial attache at the Austrian enthassy in Jordan.

Dr. Langer said Austria-was offering \$18 million in assistance to develop the Palestinian economy as part of internationad contributums raised during a donors' con-ference held in Washington on Oct. 1.

The assistance will mostly be in the form of technical aid for infrustructure projects, in agriculture, health and education, he said, adding that the specific ullocations of the aid had nut been determined vet.

But, he said. Austria believes that such aid "is the. best way to help and the most suitable and effective means" to contribute to long-term conperation in the context of supporting peace rather than extending cash assistance.

#### discussions not only for in-French partner were deeply an ultimatum by top managers eleased Jurdanian orders for insulting," he added, Sweden plans to join the EC Austrian products and techopposed to the deal. The board, deeply split, cannulogy but also for joint inin 1995 after a referendum next

STOCKHOLM (R) — Volvo began a new era without its long-serving chairman Pehr Gyllenhammar Friday after an unprecedented shareholder and management revolt which raised questions about Sweden's commitment to

Kazakh Energy and Fuel Resources Minister Kadyr Baikenov said six months uf intensive work had gone into preparing Friday's final agreement. The day after Mr. Gyl-lenhammar resigned in a row over his thwarted plan to merge the company's vehicle-making operations with Re-nault of France, some business Kazakhstan, the second biggest oil producer in the former Soviet Union, produced 26 million tonnes (520,000 barrels leaders and politicians said the affair had dented the country's per day) of oil in 1992 and expects only slightly less this

image abroad.
"We criticised the French for being nationalists, Now we look like the worst chauvinists of all," said Johnny Magnusson, chairman of the city council in Volvo's home base, Mr. Baikenov told Reuters that 1993 exports would be about 4.5 million ronnes (90.000 bd), duwn from six million (120,000 b/d) last year

Gothenburg.
Mr. Gyllenhammar made no secret of his contempt for the nationalist rhetoric which characterised the debate in Sweden over the planned nault merger. Then he faced the press

ne to annouoce his resignation Thursday night, he said: "Sweden is turning its back on Europe."
"In the forthcoming referendum (on European Community membership) the same

emotional arguments are going to occur. Can we trust Europe? Are Europeans trustworthy?, Mr. Gyllenhammar said. A fluent linguist and advocate of the concept of Euro-

pean union, Mr. Gyllenham-

mar said the debate about the

issue of Sweden in Europe merger should be analysed closely. "Some of the things that were said about our

Volvo upheaval raises

year, although public opinion both here and in two other Nordic applicants. Finland and Norway, is firmly opposed to the idea.

Industry Minister Per Wes-terberg Friday dismissed Mr. Gyllenhammar's criticism. saying rejection of the deal by Volvo shareholders was based on business and not nationalist

arguments. But Labour Minister Borie Hornlund, asked why he thought the merger\_due to start on Jan. 1, had collapsed. said: "In my experience, in bad times it is dangerous to be a long way from the bead office."

controlled 65 per cent of a joint company, Renault-Volvo RVA, pending privarisation of its stake and anxiety about French domination was a constant theme in Vovlo sharebolder concern.

The French state would have

The role of Volvo Managing Director Soren Gyll in the final hours of Mr. Gyllenhammar's 22-year leadership was examined Friday by Swedish ocwspapers, which described the revolt by senior managers and shareholders as unparalleled.

that major Swedish shareholders would vote against the

Faced with the probability

merger plan at a special meet-ing set for Dec. 7, Mr. Gyll acted swiftly, calling a board meeting at which he read out

celled the shareholders' meeting while restating its support for the merger. Renault President Raymond Levy and three other members resigned from the Volvo board along with

Mr. Gyllenhammar. The Volvo affair will have serious repercussions on the way in which Swedish companies are run, the daily Svens-ka Dagbladet said, adding that Volvo's big shareholders such as pensioo funds had been "dragged blinking and reluc-tant into the limelight."

Business commentators said the lessons to be learnt were that sbarebolders must pay more attention to management and boards of directors must listen to shareholders and empiovees.

Separately, another key fi-gure in Swedish economic life, union leader Stig Malm, resigned Friday amid criticism of his role in approving big redun-dancy payments to union offi-

"This is Swedish-style perestroika (economic restructur-ing), the financial daily Finanstidningen said.

**Jordan Times** Tel: 667171

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation heart is and the centre of worth-

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Handle routine chores during the early part of the day and leave some time to engage in your favourite hobby later in the day. Don't start any trip or journey in the AM. unless your able to stay

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Behind the scenes activities and studies can produce the results that are most important to you with mate over a outside interest. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

A day to see and/or contact as many friends and acquaintances to get their support for a project that is dear to your heart, tonight don't argue with your mate. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Do whatever you feel will put you to the fore in the public estimation during the daytime and reap the rewards while in the evening don't anger a bigwig. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A great day to be of service and helpful to others and to get your surroundings in the condition you want them to be, tonight protect your health.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A great day to thoroughly cojoy yourself at whatever pleasure most send whatever pleasure most send you so get together with choseo companions and be happy, tonight avoid extra-va-gance.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Home is where your

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5 Musical sign
6 Tinsellown
Turner

7 Developed 8 Spagnets

while activity during the day but tonight make sure you do not have contentious guests in your J.JBRA: (September 23 tu Octo-ber 22) Dash around today

sathering information and visiting as many good contacts as are available but tunight do not get bogged down in dull duties. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take a good look

I VOUT DONS what you can do to improve their value today but tonight go on an econnmical kick for success. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go after your personal aims during the daytime

with courage and confidence and they should be yours while tonight obstacles are in your CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some very

excellent studies or through advisors by which you can gain data you need so don't gu running all over looking for such. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to

February 19) Your gregarius self is able to enjoy those friends you meet with today so be on the go with them and in the evening rest and relax after a very active time. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out in the world and see and let as many influential per-sons as possible realise your charm and abilities today, theo sit back tonight and observe the

### Peanuts

Lavour in Europe.





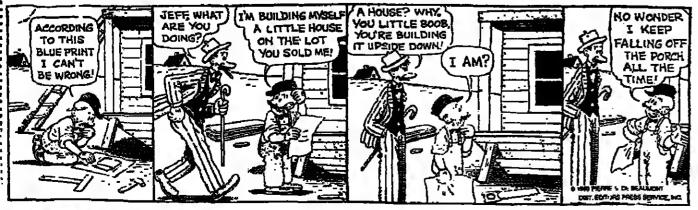




### **Andy Capp**

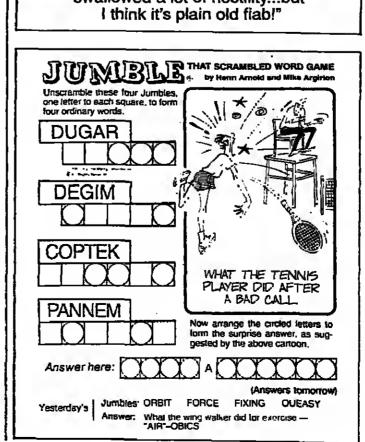


### **Mutt'n'Jeff**



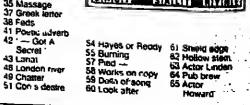
# THE BETTER HALF, By Harris HARRIS

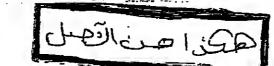
"Our marriage counselor says you've swallowed a lot of hostility...but











## Figures show non-productive sectors dominate investment in UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Defence and other non-productive sectors are still taking the lion's share of public and private investment in the United Arab Emitates (UAE) despite attempts to diversify its oilreliant economy.

intly Milks

Defence, security, trade and construction are consuming more than half the annual federal spending and private investment while such productive sectors as industry and farming have remained almost

negligible.
Official figures showed defence and security expenditure stood at 7.7 billion dirhams (\$2.09 billion) in 1992, more than half the federal hudget of 14.8 billion dirhams (\$4 billion).

In 1991, they accounted for 50.2 per cent of federal spending of 14.9 billion dirhams (\$4.05 billion) and for 52.5 per cent of the 1990 expenditure of 14.2 billion dirhams (\$3.86 billion).

They stood at 55.6 per cent in 1989 and 56 per cent in 1988. Reports by the central bank and the finance and industry ministry did not include figures on local spending by each of the seven emirates making up the UAE as they do not disclose their defence and other

But large funds are being earmarked annually by Abu Dhabi, the biggest and weal-thiest emirate, for its post-war drive to bolster its army.

This year, it signed one of

the biggest arms deals in its history, a \$4 billion package to buy 436 French Leclerc battle tanks.

The reports showed only 1.9 billion dirhams (\$517 million) were allocated in the 1992 budget for the industry, agriculture and other ministries.

But they covered mostly

salaries to their employees as projects received only 54 miltion dirhams (\$14.7 million). Investment in services sectors like communication. health, housing, education.

water and electricity totalled only 636 million dirhams (\$173.3 million). according to the reports. Although the government bas introduced attractive incentives to encourage the pri-

vate sector to set up industrial

and farming projects, invest-

ments in such fields are still dwarfed by trade and construc-

Central bank figures showed credits given by the country's 47 banks to farming stood at only 205 million dirhams (\$55.8 million) by the end of June and those to industry at 2.8 billion dirhams (\$762 mil-

Credits to trade peaked at 24.6 billion dirhams (\$6.7 billion) by the end of June and to construction at 13.5 billion dirbams (\$3.67 billion). The two sectors accounted

for more than half the total credits of 69 billion dirhams (\$18.8 billion). While bank credits for agriculture and industry have increased by only two to three per cent since 1988, those for

trade and construction jumped

by between 30 and 50 percent, the reports showed.

The government has urged banks to pay more attention to financing productive projects hut they argue demand for such sectors is low given their limited potential compared with construction and commercial activities.

Bankers see large invest-ment opportunities in industry if the government allows the private sector into the energy field, which has remained out of reach on the grounds it is

strategic.
"The oil and petrochemical sector could absorb large funds given its huge potential." one banker said. "The non-oil sector is still limited as most industries are light products. which face tough competition from others.

### Iraq allows hard currency deals with private sector

government ministries and offices are now permitted to strike deals in hard currency with the private sector, Babel newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest

son reported Saturday. "Babel has learned that the cabinet urged ministries and directorates to strike deals in hard currency with the private sector," the newspaper said. It was the first official ack-

nowledgement that the govern-

meot was encouraging dealings in hard currency. Fighting to bold down spiralling prices and curb a plunge in the value of its dinar, the

government said last month it would stop buying dollars from the black market.

The Iraqi dinar was hovering at 140-145 to the U.S. dollar and Baghdad traders expected the new measure to weaken it further as demand for the dollar increased.

"Where is the government going to get its dollars from)" one said. "It will start buying again.

Iraq is under stringent U.N. embargo for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions foraid all trade with Iraq apart from imports of food and

Babel said the measure will

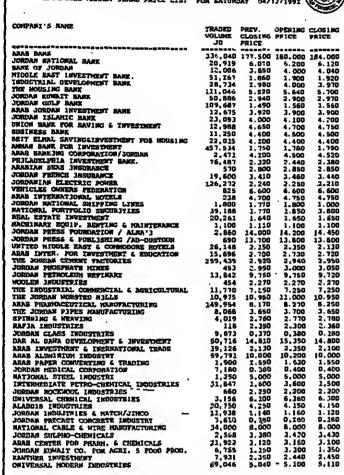
help the private sector to "meet its production requirements but stressed private entrepreneurs were obliged to sell part of their production to the

The government has auctioned shares of four of its largest state-owned companied to withdraw excess money from circulation and shore up the sinking dinar.

But most investors have so far sbunned the new shares saying the government was asking too high a price.

It could only sell 50.00 shares of cement factory out of 100 million offered.

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2.436.674

Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Market

TOTAL

New York Close Date 2/12/93	New York Close Itan 3/12/93
1.4839	1.4905
1.7225	1.7200
1.5035	1.4900
5.9365	5.9120
105.80	108.55
1.1160	1.1190
	1.7225 1.5025 1.5025 1.6839

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 3/12/1993			
Currency I M		3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dellar	3.31	3.37	3.31	3.75	
Sterling Pound	5.19	5.12	5.06	5.06	
Deutsche Mark	6.18	6.03	5.62	5.18	
Swiss Franc	4.50	4.25	3.81	3.62	
French Franc	6.63	6.44	6.06	5.56	
Japanese Yen	2.18	1.93	1.87	1.75	
European Currency Unit	6-67	6.37	6.13	5.69	

Precious A	Ageals			Date: 3.	12/1993
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm"	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	376.50	7.40	Silver	4.82	0.100

	DAGE: 4/12/1995		
Carrency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030	
Sterling Pound	1.0157	1.0489	
Deutsche Mark	0.4072	0.4092	
Swine Franc	0.4698	0.4721	
French Franc	0.1184	0.1190	
Japanese Yen	0.6451	0.6483	
Dutch Gullder /	0.3632	0.3650	
Swedish Kropa	7447*	****	
Italian Lira	0.0409	0.0411	
Belgian Franc	****	****	

Other Carrencies	Date: 4/12/1993		
Currency	Bid	()Ner	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8610	
Lehanese tijra	0.040445	0.041455	
Saudi Riyat	0.1830	0.1885	
Kunaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.3200	
Quiari Riyal	0.1885	0.1915	
Expellen Period	0.2050	0.2220	
Omani Riyai	1.7800	1.8230	
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1915	
Greek Drachma	0.2815	0.5225	
Copriet Pound	1.3320	1.3700	

Ter 186

### Olivetti to cut 2,000

jobs MILAN, Italy (AFP) -- Italian computer group Olivetti told unions Friday that it would axe 2,000 jobs, the national secret-ary of the Uilm Union, Piero

Serra, said bere. He said that the group, beaded by Carlo de Benedetti, had said procedures would be started Monday to put the workers who will be losing their jobs on temporary layoff — the first stge in a process depriving them of their jobs. At the end of 1992, Olivetti

had about 40,000 employees.

Developing world bitter at few trade round gains countries Friday voiced frustration over the failure of the industrialised world to promise

treaty. Their concerns over the direction of the Uruguay Round of trade talks were supported by figures released by the GATT world trade watchdog showing they stood to gain

major market openings in

negotiations on a global trade

far less than hoped. "There is a deep imbalance in the exchange of concessions in the areas of interest to developing countries... in textiles and agricultural products," India's Ambassador Balkrishnan Zutshi told reporters during a

closed-door TNC session. Diplomats said envoys from many emerging economies told

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the TNC, the round's steering Trade Negotiations Committee, that their governments could block accords reached in Geneva if any other henefits they might gain were hacked

The diplomats said these envoys - including Malaysia's on behalf of all developing states and Egypt's speaking for Afri-ca — voiced alarm at United States efforts to water down the status of a new world trade

hody to replace the GATT. GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was founded in 1948, but is still formally a temporary body with few powers of enforcing its decisions.

The 88 developing countries in the round, and most developed states, see creation of

The Best Oriental Food in Town

strong Multilateral Trade Organisation (MTO) and a new set of trade rules it would enforce as a major object of the seven-year negotiations.

They insist that it would give them some protection from what arhitrary use of anti-dumping and similar actions by the U.S. and other big traders. against their products.

Negotiators are racing against the clock to complete the seven-year round by a Dec. 15 deadline, Optimism was hoosted in Geneva hy talks in Brussels this week removing some problems hetween the U.S. and the European Community.

But as zero-hour looms tariff-cutting offers tabled by Washington and Brussels and to a lesser extent Tokyo -

leave relatively high barriers against textiles, leather, tropicproducts and natural resource-hased goods.
These are the major export

lines of developing countries. Brazil's Luis Lampreia told the TNC if there were any further reduction in what his country stood to gain from the round, my government is fully prepared to modify or even withdraw its own offers."

If such a process began at this late stage it could unravel the carefully negotiated package among the 115 round states but diplomats doubted developing states would refuse consensus and wreck the talks India's Zutshi said he hoped

for movement to meet developing country concerns by the big traders in the coming

A study retensed by GATT Friday said a treaty emerging from the round would by the year 2005 - Itt years after it would go into effect - give an annual hoost to the world eco-

nomy of some \$230 billion: But figures included on tariff offers showed harriers would remain relatively high on goods like finished leather. textile products and fish, where emerging economies could provide strong competi-tion in a totally free market.

Speaking for the 18-member group of the least-developed countries in the negotiations, envoy Syed Janualuddin of Bangladesh said the GATT study showed the world's poorest states were "clear

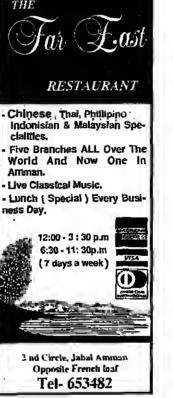
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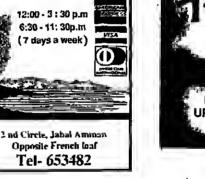
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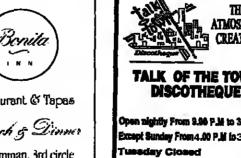




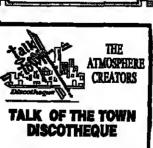
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Women win top

WASHINGTON (AP) - For

the first time in the 11-year

history of the National Press

Foundation, outstanding

women journalists are receiv-

ing both the foundation's top

broadcast and print awards.

ABC Television interviewer

Barbara Walters will receive

the Award for Excellence in

Broadcast Journalism and Des

Moines Register editor Gene-

va Overholser will get the Edi-

tor of the Year Award. Arthur "chip" Bok of the Akron

Beacon Journal will teceive the

foundation's Editorial Car-

toonist Award. Godfrey Sperl-

ing of the Christian Science Monitor will receive a special

citation for bringing news mak-

ers and reporters logether at

his legendary "Sperling Break-fasts." Philip Meyer, journal-

ism professor at the University

of North Carolina, and Elliot

Jaspin, former journalism pro-fessor at the University of Mis-

souri and now systems editor for Cox Newspapers in

Washington, will receive awards for disringuished con-

movement toward computer-

assisted research that is aiding

today's reporters. The awards

tributions to journalism. They are credited with leading the

press awards

### Fog brings respite for Sarajevo

SARAJEVO(R) - Fogbrought a respite from suiper and shelling attacks in Sarajevo Saturday as Muslim and Serh political leaders prepared to try to huild on the limited progress made at Geneva peace talks.

At least four civilians were killed and 16 wounded in the besieged Bosnian capital Friday but the weather closed in and halted the virdence Saturday.

Muslim and Serb negotiators sare due to meet again next week to discuss ways of ending the 20-month civil war, through they still appear to be lar from a settlement.

Busnia's Muslim President
Alija Izethegovic returned

Alija Izethegovic returned from the talks in Geneva with this Bosnian Serh and Croat foes saying "we did not achieve very much... (but) it doesn't mean that nothing has been achieved.

He denied he was prepared to accept splitting up Sarajevo with Bosnian Serbs, "We do not have the intention nor shall "" we ever divide Sarajevo." Mr. Izetbegovic said.

"No matter what the final outcome, we will not withdraw from any parts of the town that we are now holding. I would like both our citizens and our fighters to hear that."

The "delicate issue" of Sarajevo will continue to be a major topic of discussion.

The Bosnian Serbs told reporters in Geneva they had discussed several options for dividing the city and trading he territory in eastern Bosnia for 👾 land around Sarajevo. Mr. Izethegovic said the

KUALA LUMPUR (R) —

Malaysia said Saturday Austra-lian Prime Minister Paul Keat-

ing's attempt to mend fences

with Malaysia's Mahathir Mohammad with a letter had

worsened the diplomatie row and warned that "anything can happen after this."

"The letter sent by Mr. Keating to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad was not

a letter coming from a person

with any repent or regret over

what had happened..." Malay-sian Foreign Minister Abdul-

lah Ahmad Badawi told a news

"What most disappointed us

was that be did not say he was

sorry in the letter and in fact

showed no conciliatory atti-

Keating as head of the Austra-

the government and people of Malaysia believe that Australia

really wants to maintain a good

tionship with Australia will de-

"From now on, our rela-

relationship with Malaysia."

Lan government, how then can

conference.

tude," he said."
"If this is the

Serbs propused a parallel city" that would include the districts of Hidza and Pale. which are now held by Serbs. They had also proposed trading two Serh suburbs of Sarajevo for Muslim pockets in the east,

In Sarajevo Friday, two peo-ple were killed and two were wounded when a shell landed near a makeshift emergency clinic next to the city's main hakery. Reuter journalists re-

Witnesses said the victims, a 50-year-old man aud a 35-yearold woman, died when the shell hit as they left the clinic. Two people nearby were slightly injured.

Earlier Friday, a shell hit the Princip Bridge in central Sarajevo, killing two people and wounding eight, according to staff at the city's main Kose-

The hospital also said six people were wounded when a shell landed in the centre of the old town early in the morning. Sarajevo, which sits in a valley, has been in the grip of a Bosnian Serh siege for the duration of the war.

The Yugoslav News Agency. Tanjug said Muslim forces fired small arms and mortars on Serh positions Friday, including the Sarajevo suburh of Vogosca. Both sides reported artillery and mortar attacks in

the city suburbs.
In the United States, an international team of investigators said it had gathered the first hard forensic evidence of mass executions in the civil war in former Yugoslavia.

The team, lead by Boston-

based Physicians for Human Rights, collected the evidence -- including human remains. clothing, bouts and AK-47 bullet casings — from mass graves near the town of Vukayar in a

Setb-held enclave al Crnatia. Similar evidence was incoveted from a suspected mass grave in an area of Croatia known by the U.N. as Sector

The evidence will be submitted to the recently established United Nations war crimes trihunal in the Hague.

The schoolchildren of wartorn Sarajevo went on an enforced winter break Friday. sent hame for more than two months in the face of the anthorities inability to heat the schools during the cold

The Education Ministry, citing the cold and the security situation, said the schools would close until Feb. 15. idthough classes will be held in apartment blocks where possihle, to make sure the children do not fall too far behind with their work.

Bosnian government radio will also broadcast classes, with the support of the United Na-Children's Fund (UN-

ICEF). There is not much electricity in the town and priority users like the hospitals get what little

there is. Meanwhile, Serhian Foreign Minister Vladislay Jovanovic accused Turkey Friday of stirring up religious sentiment among Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the start of the cunflict in former Yugoslavia. "Religion was not an issue.

But Turkey took the chance to speed up the indoctrination of our Muslims." Mr. Jovanovie fuld a news conference.

He said Serbia was not inenlyed in the conflict in Busnia and said thousands of "mujahedeen" fighters from other Muslim countries were taking part, mainly against Cruats.

"What's going on there is a civil war and not an aggression from Yugoslavia as everyone wants to believe. The war is not carried out by Serbs," he

Mr. Jovanovic was speaking at the end of a two-day visit to Cyprus. The Mediterranean island, whose Greek Cyprict population shares with the Serbs its Christian Orthodox faith, has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion of the north of the island which led to the creation of a Turkish Cypriot enclave. He said an estimated 10,000

"I'm not saying they are sent hy the Turkish government had none the less they are a very strong force." he added. Mr. Jovanovic also hit out at U.N. sanctions on the rump

Mujahedeen were fighting in

Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yugoslavia states of Serhia and Montenegro. "U.N.-imposed sanctions on Yugoslavia gravely affect our economy and innocent people They are inhuman and instead of hringing stability they

achieve just the opposite." he added. He also dismissed foreign press reports that Cyprus, host til an estimated 500 offshore Yugoslav companies, is used by Serbia to hust U.N. sauc-

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Astronauts grab space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL. Florida (R) - A Swiss astronant used shuttle Endeavour's robot arm to snatch the defective Hubble space telescope from orbit early Saturday, the start of a grueling, five-day repair joh on the \$3 billion observatory. European Space Agency astronaut Claude Nicollier used the arm to grab the telescope at 3:48 a.m. EST (0848 GMT), 365 miles (587 kilometres) above Earth. He then gently set the 43½-foot-long (13-metre) telescope on its end in the shuttle's open cargo bay, where four of his crewmates will attempt to correct Hubble's blurry vision and jitters in a record series of spacewalks beginning Sunday. "Houston, Endeavour has a firm handshake with Mr. Hubble's telescope," Commander Dick Course in former of the course in the course Dick Covey informed mission control. "We copy that, Covey and there are smiles galore down here," sbuttle communicator Susan Helms radioed back. "It's quite a sight," Covey said.

#### N. Ireland peace prospects 'dim'

DUBLIN (R) — Prospects for peace in Northern Ireland by Christmas appear to have dimmed after Britain and Ireland failed to overcome "roadblocks" on the way to a settlement. Irish and British leaders met Friday and said the two sides had to narrow significant differences to capitalise on what they have both called the best chance of peace in the province for years. "We never expected the road to be easy. We expected roadblocks in the way," Ireland's Albert Renolds told a news conference after seven hours of "very frank, very serious talks" with British Prime Minister John Major. The two men meet again in a week at the European Community summit in Brussels for a second "working session" which they hope can be crowned with an agreement at a third round this month that might end 25 years of conflict. Neither was keen to set a deadline but Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said: "I would like to think it should be done by this year, the year's end." "Let's remain optimistic. There's a lot of work to be done but I which beth seem to set a serious control of the second think both governments are determined to do that work and keep northern Ireland and resolving this conflict a priority.

#### China threatens Hong Kong plan

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Chinese government sought a "right of veto" over Hong Kong affairs in recent talks with Britain in contravention of a bilateral agreement on the territory's future, a Hong Kong government spokesman said Saturday. Earlier, in a statement, the Hong Kong government accused China of seating to erode the territory's future autonomy and of failing to give a "full and frank account" of Sino-British talks on its future. The comments were in reaction to China's remarks Friday that it would not accept unilaterally introduced electoral reforms in the British colony, and would set up its own government there after it resumes sovereignty in 1997. The Hong Kong government spokesman said that China had offered to agree to certain less contentious issues "in exchange for the right of veto over electoral arrangements after 1997." This he said would leave the nominal administration, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) government, to decide only the number of seats to be

#### Malawi parties call for new rule

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) - Malawi's political parties called on the ruling presidential council to resign after fighting between the army and paramilitary youths and looting in the capital. Government officials said Saturday the death toll from Friday's fighting was 14, with 78 wounded. Witnesses reported seeing at least 16 bodies. Witnesses said several buildings in Lilongwe were still smouldering Saturday, 24 hours after the three-man ruling council ordered the army to disarm the Malawi Young Pioneers, the paramilitary wing of the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP). The city was calm but tense, they said. An official at the Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi's "Garden City," said the dead and wounded were mostly Pioneers but included civilians and

#### Sukarno's daughter defies pressure

SURABAYA, Indonesia (R) — The daughter of Indonesia 's late President Sukarno, vying for leadership of one of the country's two permitted opposition parties, boosted her chances of success Saturday despite government support for a rival candidate. In a crucial decision that party sources said would help Megawati Sukarnoputri's campaign, the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) voted not to decide the lead-ership by committee. "It (a rule requiring a committee decision) has been revoked from the procedures," Budi Hardjono, Ms. Megawan's chief rival, told reporters at the PDI congress in the East Javanese port city of Surabaya. Party officials had said Ms. Megawati only stood a chance of success through a party vote, oot through a committee which, if set up, was expected to have been made up of pro-government figures opposed to her election. But some party sources said Saturday the government could still railroad the congress into accepting Mr. Hardjono, its preferred candidate, or bring the meeting to

### N. Korea to ease access to nuclear

sites WASHINGTON (R) - North Korea formally responded to U.S. proposals for resolving the dispute over its nuclear capability Friday and the New York Times said Pyongyang had offered international inspectors wider access to its nuclear sites.

The newspaper, citing Clinton administration sources, said the offer - which still fell short of U.S. demands - was made at a meeting Friday at the United Nations between North Korean envoys and U.S. State Department officials.

The newspaper said in its Saturday editions that North Korea had offered to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) unlimited access to most of the nuclear sites it had already disclosed officially. But U.S. officials said the offer failed to provide access to

other sites that could help determine how much plutonium Pyongyang may have diverted to weapons or ogrammes in the past. That would require further negotiation; the newspaper said. President Bill Clinton said

Friday he wanted to avoid a confrontation with North Korea and U.S. officials were enconraged that Pyongyang had at least made a formal

response. Mr. Clinton, in Alhnquer-que, New Mexico, told reporters that he intended to remain "very firm" with the North Koreans and at the same time "hold out the hand of possible cooperation."
The White House and State

Department were officially mum on whether Pyongyang had satisfied international demands on its nuclear programme, saying only that they were studying the North Korean response and discussing it with U.S. allies.

But U.S. officials seemed cautiously optimistic. "The key thing that's different is that we've gotten a response now,' one official said. "We're pleased that we got a te-

And a U.S. diplomat in New York said the language of the North Korean response was "markedly different" from North Korea's rhetoric over the last few days.

Mr. Clinton, talking to De-

nver television station KUSA and Phoenix station KPNX while in New Mexico, said his concern with North Korea's nuclear programme is that the North Koreans are "so much more isolated from the rest of

"They need to come on and join the rest of U.S. They need to reconcile with the South (Korea). And f want to help them. I don't want us to have a real confrontation here," he

said.
"We're just going to be firm
and keep the hand out at the
same time, and hope it works."

#### will be presented at the found-ation's 11th annual black-tie dinner on Feb. 23 in Washington. Lack of success in German AIDS

research attacked

HALLE, Germany (AFP) -German Health Minister Horst Seehofer criticised the country's lack of success in research into AIDS, in an interview published Saturday. Speaking to the daily Mitteldeutschen Express, Mr. Seehofer said researchers were hampered by testrictive laws, public mistrust of technological progress, and too much hureaucracy in universities. He said that as a result "the motivation of researchers is not good." He added that government sub-sidies were "sufficient, but they can do nothing more than give them a boost." His comments came three weeks after he drew widespread criticism by calling for everyone in Getmany who had undergone surgery or received blood products be tested for AIDS. That call followed the revelation that contaminated blood products sold by a number of laboratories had infected a large number of penple in Germany since the 1980s.

#### Man with 40 wives still wants to marry more

ABU DHABI (AFP) - A 78-year-old bedouin man in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has married more than 40 times, but is still looking for another wife. "I still want to have another wife if I find a suitable one," the man sold the magazine Al-Shuruq. Born in the oasis town of Al Ain, Ali ibn Ghadit Ibn Mohammad Al Qitabi said he could no longer remember how many times he had married. "It could be 40 times or more. The number is too big to remember. he said. 'I married from among four UAE tribes. The other wives include four from Egypt and the rest from India. Some staved with me for years, some months and others day. I had children by only three of them," he said. The turbancd. bearded man did not keep more than four wives at a time. because of a prohibition by Islam. Explaining how he came to have so many wives. Ali said. "life was easy and marrying was easier." He added. "dowries did not exceed a camel, and those who did not have camels gave only 15 rupees." He said he loved his first wife most. 'I will never find a wife like her, even if I marry 100 times.

#### Jackson to give statement in civil suit in January

LOS ANGELES (R) --Michael Jackson is making progress under treatment for drug addiction and will return to Los Angeles in time to make A a sworn statement on Jan. 18 in a lawsuit filed by a how accusing him of molesting him, his lawyer and family memhers said Friday. One of the pop star's brothers. Jermaine, said Jackson told him and his parents by phone that he was "feeling strong and much improved and looking forward to coming home." Jermaine Jackson said in a statement that the multimillionaire entertainer wnuld make his first public appearance "since his recup-eration" for a televising special for charity in Las Vegas nn Feh. 5. The annuncements the first indication of Jackson's plans since he disappeared from sight last month - followed a plea by his marker. Katherine Jackson, to return home and defend himself

### Poll shows Diana is most popular royal

LONDON (Agencies) — On the day that Princess Diana decided to retreat from the public spotlight, an opinion poll showed she is the most popular member of the British royal family. In Friday's Gallup poll, 24

per cent of those questioned picked Princess Diana compared to just six per cent for her estranged husband and .. heir to the throne Prince

Charles.
The 93-year-old Queen Mother came second with 19 er per cent of the vote and Queen . Elizabeth herself third with 17 per cent.

The wide-ranging poll condueted before Princess Diana's cannouncement showed that popularity for the monarchy had plummeted in Britain, with just 14 per cent saying they had a great deal of affec-

tion for the royal family.
Cutting down drastically on her public engagements. Princess Diana, the world's most photographed woman, indicated that media intrusion had finally proved too much to

The poll showed that 86 per cent of those questioned thought the media intruded far too much in the private lives of

the royal family.

A majority of those questioned — 57 per cent — said
Princess Diana should have custody of Princes William and Harry should she and Prince Charles ever divorce.

Meanwhile British politicians expressed understanding Saturday after Princess Diana announced she was cutting back public appearances, as speculation intensified about why she left the media glare. British Prime Minister John Major was among those to express "comprehension" after Princess Díana made her announcement Friday.

"I understand and sympatbise with the reasons of her decision," Mr. Major said in Duhlin after talks on Northern Ireland with his Irish counter-

mission (embassy). The Malaysian cabinet will decide on the next course of action to take when it meets Wednesday if Canberra does not take steps to mend the rift,

"If they want to improve relations, it is better that they do something about it," he said. "Obviously, the letter from Mr. Keating is not going

to help."

Asked what Malaysia was likely to do, he replied: "Anything can happen after this." Kuala Lumpur bad already decided government agencies were free to review ties with

Australia. "We are not officially downgrading (ties), but the effect is that the cooperation which now exists between Malaysia and Australia in areas involving various government agencies and departments will be reviewed," he said. "This cer-tainly will have an adverse

Malaysia says ties worsened by Keating's letter effect on the existing relateriorate," he said, reading a statement that was to be sent to the Australian High Com-

Malaysia's Information Ministry has already ordered a boycott of Australian television programmes, while others have said they would review business deals with Australian Mr. Mahathir said Friday he

did not expect an apology but was dismayed by what Mr. Keating had written. "I don't expect an apology (but) I just cannot define this

letter as being conciliatory," The full content of Mr. Keating's letter has not been released by Malaysian officials said Kuala Lumpur was upset Mr. Keating had tried to justify his remark that Mr. Mahathir was a recalcitrant by referring to the Malaysian's views on the

Asia-Pacific Economie Cooperation (APEC). The letter said the term "recalcitrant" was not meant to offend and had been blown out of proportion, a Keating spokesman said Thursday.

"Apparently, he took offence with my comments that APEC has become too massive," Mr. Mahathir said, Australia was an early advocate of APEC.

Mr. Mahathir stayed away from the summit called by U.S President Bill Clinton as he felt Washington was trying to dominate the grouping. He is also promoting an Asian-only economic group towards which Washington has been cool. Mr. Abdullah Ahmad said it

was Kuala Lumpur which sug-gested to the Australian High Commissioner John Dauth that Mr. Keating write a letter to Mr. Mahathir to clear the

"We had sincerely hoped that a letter from Keating would belp us achieve what we letter had the reverse effect,' he said.

Mr. Keating has also post-poned plans to visit Kuala Lumpur in January but Mr. Abdullah Ahmad said that decision was made before the row

#### herself and reduce it for him." But the Times said that the princess's decision should counteract the impression

husband are competing for the favour of the public."

The Daily Mirror, in an attempt to make amends for recently publishing controversial pictures of the princess exercising at a private gym, vowed to respect her privacy in future, urging the rest of the media to follow suit.

that she and her estranged

"There must today he genuine remorse for the dis-tress all that has caused her. Certainly there is at the Mirror," the centre-left publica-

The paper accepted a share of the blame for pushing Princess Diana out of public life but pointed to its tabloid rival. the Sun, which had published the full text of private tele-

proved "the last straw" for the princess, but added: "Clearly other factors bave belped push

The centre-right Daily Mail whose front-page headline read: "Charles drove her to it," said "her role in shaping perceptions of the modern monarchy cannot be over-

graph leader coupled sympathy for the princess with regret that ber announcement would "unleash a new royal melodrama." It foresaw an "inevitable" for-malising of the royal separa-

estranged wife of Prince Charles told a charity luncheon Friday she could no longer cope with life under the spotlight and would curtail her public activities from the end of the year.

# Escobar buried in chaotic funeral

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Three thousand mourners from the slums of Medellin, waving Colombian flags and chanting "Pablo Pablo Pablo," huried cocaine king Pablo Escohar Friday, the day after the drug lord was killed by police in a shootout.

The crowd, mostly drawn from the working-class district which Mr. Escobar built and gave to the poot to win support, had earlier wrecked the funeral chapel where his simple grey metallic coffin luy in their desperation to catch a

glimpse of the body.
"Colombia has lost God's envoy sent to end misery and poverty," wailed Escohar's sister Marina. "Colombia has lost the only man who could have made things better."

While the rest of Colombia

celebrated the end of a bloody careet of drug terror which has lasted nearly 10 years, Mr. Escobar's family and admirers gathered outside the Jardines Monte Sacro Cemetery in Medellin to bid their hero farewell.

Tired of waiting for hours outside the small room where Escohar lay in an open coffin, the crowd burst in, smashing down doors and windows to catch a glimpse of the fat. bearded trafficker's body, dressed in a striped T-shirt and sporting a moustache. Old people fainted and chil-

dren were almost crushed in the tumult as Mr. Escobar's cheering fans picked up the coffin and manhandled it into the cemetery's main funeral chapel where there was more

Soldiers and police carried the coffin out to the hurial plot as hundreds of mourners threw

flowers, and shnuted "Pabin Pahlo Pablo".

The Medellin cartel boss's black-clad wife Maria Victoria Henao and their two children, teenage Juan Pahlo and little Manuela, caught only a brief glimpse of the hody in the hapel before the chaos forced them to ahandon the cemetery in two hulletproof cars, accompanied by 20 gun-toting body-

guards Radio reports said they had subsequently taken a flight from Medellin Airport to an unspecified destination.

Hundteds of police and troops clamped right security over Medellin, a city of more than two million, to prevent any unrest.
In Bogota, the government

rejniced in its success and newspapers brought out special editions to celebrate the death of the man who dominated the world cocaine trade during the 1980s, bombing and killing anyone at home who got

in his way. Mr. Escobar was accused in more than 14 separate indictments of masterminding the hombing of a pussenger airliner, assassmating three presidential candidates, dozens of judges, jnurnalists and politicians and of planting car bombs in Bogota and Medellin.

President Cesar Gaviria held a special ceremony to decorate the police and army generals and officers who staffed the Special Search Force which had hunted Mr. Escobar day and night since he escaped from a jail near Medellin in July 1992 with nine of his men.

Now that Mr. Escobar is dead, the United States wants to help Colombia fight the Cali

cartel, which experts say now controls the world cocaine trade. U.S. Amhassador Morris Bushy said Friday. "I am sure that the Col-

ombian government will start its acrion against the Cali car-tel," Mr. Busby told a news conference. "And we are ready to help in this effort." Mr. Bushy said the U.S. government had helped the unit in providing training and intelligence information and

would do the same in the fight against the Cali cartel, said to control more than 70 per cent of the cocaine exported to the United States.
But he denied that the killing of Mr. Escobar was a U.S.-

orchestrated operation. "It was assistance in a Colombian strategy and a Col-ombian fight, he said. "What we offered was a sidebar to what was a totally Colombian

effort. In Washington, Cnlomhia's attorney general Carlos Arrieta said Mr. Escohar's death, and the proven effectiveness of his country's antidrug campaign, should prompt it to ask the United States for

more cooperation. These circumstances are appropriate for tequesting more cooperation" from the United States, he said.

Mr. Busby declined "for obvious reasons" to talk about monitoring equipment the United States supposedly gave the force that eventually helped it locate Mr. Escobar by intercepting one of his phone calls from a house in a southwestern

Medellin neighbourhood. But he stressed that no U.S. personnel were directly involved in the hunt for Mr.



appearances.

Amid the speculation about "did she jump or was she one Conservative politician pointed to the rivalry for public affection between the princess and her estranged husband, Prince Charles.

"She is not moving out of public life. She is being pushed out of public life by the bureaucratics who go under the name of courtiers," said Sir Nicholas Fairbairn.

Fellow MP Terry Dicks

The Daily Star. saying it was "rubbish" to blame media pressure for the princess's move, explained that she had "simply lost the war with the big guns at the (Buckingham) Palace." who were angry because she had stolen the lime-

light.
The conservative Daily Express was more critical of the princess, pointing out that she had not hesitated to use the press in the past "to pursue het differences with her he shand, to court public sympathy for

tion said. phone conversations and used photos of the princess in a bikini when pregnant. The right-wing Sun claimed the illicit "leotard photos" had Diana to the hrink.

> stated. It also suggested the gymnasium photographs "may have been the last straw." The right-wing Daily Tele-

In an emotional speech, the

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### Chinese swimmer breaks another world record

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain (R) — Dai Guohong of China set a world record for the women's 100 metres breaststrokeat the world shortcourse swimming championships Saturday.

Her time of one minute 6.58 seconds beat the mark of 1:07.05 set by Silke Hoemer of East Germany in Bonn in February 1986.

Dai broke the 400 metres individual medley world shortcourse record Thursday and twice lowered the 200 metres breaststroke world mark

China broke the women's world 4×100 metres freestyle relay short-course record with a time of 3:35.97. It beat the mark of 3:38.77

set by East Germany in Monaco in December 1987. The Chinese women's 4×100 metres freestyle team

was Lu Bin, Shan Ying, Jia Yuanyuan and Le Jingyi. Earlier Saturday Australia's Linley Frame upstaged Chinese ace Dai in heats at the world championships.

Frame, the world longcourse champion, posted the fastest heat time of ooe minute 7.34 seconds in the women's 100 metres breaststroke.

Dai was just seven-hundredths of a second slower in winning her heat and both looked sure to threaten the 1:07.05 world short-course re-

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cord. The Chinese women have dominated these championships, winning six of their nine races in the first two days - five of them in world record

Liu Limin, winner of the women's 200 metres butterfly, established herself as favourite in the 100 butterfly by setting the fastest heat time of 1:00.12 but team mate Ou Yun was ninth overall and failed by a tiny fraction to qualify for the



Chinese swimmer Dai Guohong ploughs the water to set a new world record as she wins the 200m photo)

Championships in Palma De Mallorca, Spain fAFP photo) stroke heats event at the short track swimming

The Chinese also failed to make the final of the women's 400 metres freestyle, one of the distance freestyle events in which their swimmers in Palma

have been outclassed. Janet Evans, triple Olympic champion in 1988, posted the second-fastest qualifying time behind fellow American Trina Jackson as she aimed to add the 400 metres freestyle title to

the 800 crown she won Friday. American Jon Olsen, the Pan-Pacific champion, led men's 100 metres freestyle qualifiers ahead of Brazilians Fernando de Queiroz and Gustavo Borges, the world record

American Eric Wunderlich set a brisk pace in the men's 200 metres breaststroke, winning his heat by more than a second from British Olympie medallist Nick Gillingham, the second-fastest qualifier

Australia's Phil Rogers, world, short-course record hol-

der and winner of Friday's 100 breaststroke, took the seventh qualifying slot.

Olympie bronze medallist Franck Esposito of France set the pace in men's 200 metres butterfly heats. American Mark Henderson, who took the silver in the 100 butterfly, failed to make the final.

Meanwhile Australian officials have complained about dope testing procedure at the swimming championships.

Australian press officer lan Hanson said Friday the team had sent a delegation to talk to the International Swimming Federation (FINA) Technical Commission because they felt the tests were not strict

"We had our medical staff looking at the situation and we were getting feedback from our swimmers that they hadn't been tested properly," he said. Some Australian swimmers

had been told to leave the water for a test but then keptwaiting for a long time, Han-

The Australians were also worried about a shortage of chaperones to supervise the screenings.
"There are only five

son said.

chaperones for 24 tests. It's got to be chaperoned or what's to stop people swapping sam-ples?" he said. "We are going to make sure the FINA rules are observed.

However, Britain's Karen Pickering, whose defiant chal-lenge in the 200 metres freestyle won her the gold, was impressed by the level of

testing.
"They've done a lot of testing here," she said, "I was watched all the time but I don't know about everyone else. She said speculation about drug abuse was fresh in every

competitor's mind.
"But it's quite easy to use it as an excuse," Piekering said. 'If someone swims faster than you, you can say 'oh, they're on drugs'. It's an easy way

### Australia, Germany 1-1 in Davis Cup final

DUESSELDORF. Germany (Agencies) - Richard Fromanother at 7-6. The Australian, who has berg saved five match points in a five-set thriller against Marc Goellner to help Australia level the Davis Cup final 1-1 after the opening two singles force a fifth set.

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

TALK IS NOT ALWAYS CHEAP

Fromberg saved three match points in a third-set tie-break and another two in the fifth set as he clinched a 3-6, 5-7, 7-6 6-2, 9-7 victory after more than four and a half hours in the five final.

The partisan German crowd witnessed eight hours of tension in all after Michael Stich, the world number two, played the pressure points superfily as he battled back from one set behind to beat Jason Stoltenberg 6-7, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 to give the Germans a I-U lead.

The Duesseldorf crowd witnessed the first two five-set opening singles in a Davis Cup final since 1973 when Australia defeated the United States 5-0

in Cleveland. Ohio. Goellner seemed to be on his way to a straight sets victory when he took the first two sets and had two match points at 6-4 in the third-set tiebreak. But Fromberg refused to yield.

WITH OMAR SHARIF

Both vuinerable. West deals.

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The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dbl Pass 1 NT
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of \(\sigma\)
Bridge is a strange game. Some

times an egregious error will go un-punished. On other occasions, perfectly normal actions can prove

costly. This deal illustrates our

The auction is unremarkable. Give North the king of clubs instead

of the queen jack and nine tricks would be on top. As the cards lie,

declarer had 10 work for the

West led a fourth-best heart, won

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saving the two points and

been suffering with a nb mus-cle injury in the last few days. took the next set with ease to Goellner, whose every win-

ner was roared on by the home crowd, had another two chances when he was 40-15 ahead at 7-6 in the final set. But Fromberg saved the day again and broke back to lead 8-7 before taking advantage his second match point in the next game to win the match.

It was the most dramatic Davis Cup final comeback since 1978 when Britain's Buster Mottram saved two match points in the third set against Brian Gottfried to come through 10 win the second rubber of the tie. The U.S. won

Australian captain Neale Fraser said the match was one of the bravest performances of all time.

"That match has to be very. very high among the best. To be away from home in a big tie and save five match points when we lost the first rubber. l can't put it in words how good that was." Fraser said.

in the closed hand. Had West not opened the bidding, declarer would have tried the club finesse for a ninth trick and been defeated by a

trick. Since the opening bid gave away the location of the king of clubs, South tried a different tack.

the ace-king of diamonds, then threw West on lead by exiting with a

heart. The best that defender could do was to cash the rest of the hearts.

to complete the defensive book. But

to complete the defensive book. Sur then West had to lead a club and present declarer with the fulfilling trick.

Couldn't declarer play the same

way had West not tipped off the location of the high cards? It would

have been far too risky. For this line to succeed, West had to have started

with no more than a doubleton dia-mond, otherwise the defender would

have a diamond cash as well as the hearts. In addition, only a 5-2 heart

hearts. In addition, only a 5-2 heart split threatens the contract, if the club finesse were to fail. All in all, declarer would surely have relied on clube for the fulfilling trick.

Yes, we know West could have

avoided the endplay by cashing the

third round. Fourth best from that

holding, though, was the normal

Declarer cashed four spades and

Fromberg was so tired he could not appear at a postmatch news conference.

"He is flaked out on the table at the moment. It is sheer exhaustion," Fraser said. Until the crucial stages of

the final set of Stich's rubber. against Stoltenherg, Ger-many's decision to play the tie on a slow court despite Stich's penchant for faster surfaces seemed to be a major mistake. Despite the pressure of the

partisan 10.000 crowd the bespectacled Stoltenberg, who expeeted to be a reserve here but won his late call-up after impressing Australian captain Neale Fraser during training. was not afraid to go for his

Stoltenberg was 2-0 up in the final set before Stich battled back with two more breaks to win in just under three and a half hours.

"That was a lot of hard work today," Stich said. "Fortunately he got a bit nervous and made a few mistakes. After that I'm going for a hot bath. a nice dinner and a good

Stoltenberg said Stich's experience was vital at the end of the tight fifth set.

"I feel disappointed and frustrated that I did not take a chance to give Australia a 1-0 lead," he said. "But he came up with the big shots. He lifted his game at the end of the fifth. That is why he is the number two in the world and a great

Stich needs to recover quickly before he teams up with Patrik Kuehnen to play Wimbeldon champions Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge in Saturday's doubles.

The experienced Australian pair are favourites to take the rubber which would leave favourites Germuny an im-mense task in Sunday's reverse

Fromberg's heroics have put Australia right back in a match they seemed to be losing. Goellner went into hiding Saturday.

He fled from the Trade Centre Stadium here late Friday refusing to speak to press and German officials.

He spent Saturday morning in his hotel, leaving team offi-cials wondering whether he would turn up to watch the doubles rubber later in the

Goellner's defeat was the latest in a long chapter of disasters for the 23-year-old. 6ft 51in player.

having won only one match in five tournaments, and when questioned about his recent record. Goellner snapped arrogantly: "The ball is round. You will see what you will see Friday.

Goellner, nicknamed "baby boom-boom" (the new Boris Becker) when he emerged from relative obscurity wearing his cap back to front last spring, was hailed as a potential world-beater when he won

the Nice Open in April. But after his early successes he went off the boil and his behaviour became increasingly

German team captain Niki Pilic. unable to select Becker who had made himself unavailable for Davis Cup duty, slotted Goellner into his squad against the Czech and Slovak Republics team

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### China dominates final day of **Asian Athletics Championships**

Chen Zhaojing set a meet record Salurday in the women's 200 metre despite a leg injury and Hao Liu bear an injured Uzhek favourite in men's shotput in the final day of the Asian Athletics Cham-

pionships. China's domination at the biennial meet remained overpowering. With all but five events complete, the Chinese had won 37 of the 108 medals, including 22 of the 36 golds.
Chen's winning time of 23,24 seconds in the 200 metre beat

the old mark of 23.24 set by P.T. Usha of India in New Delhi in 1989. Sri Lanka's Damayanthi Darsha won the silver in 23.29 and Wang Huei Chen of Taiwan look the bronze in 23.42

"I was not 10tt per cent confident of winning." Chen, who wore a silver necklace and earrings for luck." I am satisfied with the results. The last moments were good consider-

ing the injury. China also picked up golds in the women's triple jump and men's 200 metre race. Ren Ruiping clinched the gold in the women's triple with a leap of 14.05-metre (46/11. Kim Hyu-In of South Korea

won the silver with 12.69 metres and Noraishi Ismail of Malaysia took the bronze at 12.45 metres.

Huang Dang of China won the men's 200 metre race in 2lt.83 seconds, followed by Kochi Konakapomi of Japan 20.98 and Zhao Cunlin of China in 21.07.

Ibrahim Ismail of Oatar. who won the men's 400 metres Friday, was expected to win the event and jumped off to an early lead. But he dropped out late in the race rubbing his leg in pain.

"I would have won very easily," Ismail said, "The race was over for me after 50 metres. I was really feeling good, then disaster struck.

Triple jumper Aleksei Fatianov gave the former Soviet Republic of Azerbatian its first gold with a winning distance of 10.89 metres (55/7) in the men's event. Oleg Sakirkin of Khazakstan won the silver at 16.82 (55/5) and Sergey Arzamasov to Khazakstan took the bronze at 16.78

aiready assured oi his first heave of 18.56 metres (60/10), threw the shot put to a

In the men's shot put Liu, robbed of \$200 at his hotel

ing a former meet record of 18.32 metres (60/1) set by China's Ma Yong Feng in Singapore in 1987. Bilal Saad of Oatar came in second with a throw of 18.28 metres (59/11). Heavily favoured Sergev Kot of of Uzbekistan suffered a leg in-

on his sixth and last try, break-

third with a distance of 17.85 metres (58/6). Qatar, whose total population wouldn't even qualify as a modest-sized Asian city, is finishing among the medal leaders in Asian Athletics Championships dominated by

jury while making his first throw, and had to settle for

Qatar? The oil-rich Arab sheikhdom, a sandy peninsula jutting into the Gulf from Eastern Saudi Arabia. has a population of about 500,000 compared with China's 1.1 billion.

Oatar. at 10.920 square kilometres (4,200 square miles), is smaller than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Most of Qatari territory desert.

Despite such a limited talent pool. Oatar has managed to win two golds, two bronze and one silver medal during the five days of competition. India. the world's second

most populous country, has won six medals. Twenty-one of the 39 competitors haven't won any medals at all.

Money appears to be re-sponsible for much of the Qatari success. The Oataris have brought along 13 eoaches, one for each of the athletes on the team.

The coaches are themselves "world elass" as the athletes. Lee Evans, an American who won two gold medals in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, coaches Ibrahim Ismail.

Evans said his main task now will be to prepare Ismail for the Asian Games next year in Hiroshima, Japan.

The Qatan's have not said how much they spent on training their athletes. But Evans. who has coached in nearly 20 countries, said "no American university can pay me the money Qatar is paying me to

Meanwhile, Syrian gold medallist Zebabu Hamed, who won the 400 metre hurdle in the Asian championships, was



Ihrahim Ismail carries the Qatari flag after winning the men's 400 metre event at the Asian Athletics Championships in Manila(AFP photo)

Saturday, police said, Police said Hamed left the money on his table and left to make a telephone call while a roomboy was inside his room at the Sheraton Hotel. The money disappeared when he

came back, police added, Theft charges were filed against the roomboy, who denied the accusation.

On Wednesday, Hamed won the 400 hurdle in the cham-

#### Asian medals table

MANILA - Final medal table at the Asian Athletics Championships here Saturday:

China	23	tt	4	38
South Korea	3	4	3	t0
Kazakhstan	3	3	3	9.
Japan	2	5	7	t4
India	2	2	5	9
Saudi Arabia	2	2	Ō	4
Qatar	2	ī	2	5
Syria	2	Ö	0	2
Uzbekistan	t	5	t	6
Azerbaijan	i	ō	Ŏ.	. ī
Taiwan	Õ	2	4	. 6
Malaysia	Ŏ	2	3	5
Sri Lanka	Õ	2	ť	3
Thailand	ŏ	ī	ž	3 .
UAE	ŏ	i	ī	2
Iran	ŏ	ň	ż	
Khyrgistan	ň	ŏ	;	ī
Philippines	Ď	ŏ	;	•
Kuwait	0	•	:	- ;
7.43 At 101 C				

### Egypt's ft 51 in player. He arrived in Dusseldorf 100KS to Super Club

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) -After lifting the African Cup-Winners' Cup a record fourth time Friday night, Egypt's Al Ahli have adjusted their sights to the Super Club.

The showdown between the Alrican champions and cup winners will be staged in South Africa on Jan. 16, and could become an Egyptian affair.

Attempting to capture the Champions' Cup a recordequalling third time, Zamalek held Asante Kotoko goalless in Ghana. leaving them well placed to win the return game on Dec. 10.

If the Egyptians triumph, it will complete a remarkable hat-trick for the Cairo elubs as Zamalek were also champions in 1984 and 1986 when Al Ahli lifted the Cup-Winners' Cup. Formed 87 years' ago, Al Ahli are the most successful

club in continental competitions, winning the champions' cup twice and the Cup-Winners Cup four times. They are one of only three clubs who have been cham-

pions and cup winners. The others. Canon Yaounde and Union Douala, eame from Cameroon.

Tel.: 699238

### Pace beats off Seizinger's downhill challenge

TIGNES, France (R) — Canadian Kate Pace proved the unexpected world title she won last season was no fluke as she beat off the challenge of German Katja Seizinger to win the opening women's World Cup downhill of the season

Taking advantage of perfect weather conditions and bright sunshine, the 24-year-old Pace raced the 2,200-metre Lognan course in one minute 16.56 seconds to beat Seizinger by 0.14 seconds.

Seizinger, winner of last sea-

son's World Cup downhill title and recognised as the skier to bear in the speed races, chose low start number 20 in the hope that the course would ouicken.

But the German lost time in the technical part of the piste and had to concede defeat to Pace, who had started eighth. Another German, Regina Haeusl, took third place in

Pace was an unexpected world champion last season in Morioka, Japan, where she won the first major downhill of

But she underlined that it was not a one-off by winning the final World Cup downhill of the season, a pre-Olympic test in Hafjell, Norway and her win in Tignes suggested she could be a serious contender to

Seizinger's this winter. "The course was in really good shape," the Canadian

"It was very smooth. But I was expecting harder snow and I had a problem on the big turn near the bottom. I didn't take it really clean.

### Witt falls in figure skating comeback

FRANKFURT, Germany (R) — German double Olympie figure skating champion Katarina Witt tripped and fell while skating her free prog-ramme in public for the first time Friday as part of her

Witt, unveiling the programme with which she wants to win gold at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics next February. tried a triple toe-loop in her first jump but slipped before a near-capacity crowd of more than 4.000 during Frankfurt's Gala On lce.

No competition was involved in the event, but all eyes were on Witt to see if the figureskating star of former East Germany has enough talent to return to competitive skating for unified Germany six years after she turned professional.

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"There was something mis-sing in her performance," said Elfride Bayer, a German. Figure-skating judge who will be at the German Championships in Herne on Dec. 16-19.

"She must have been ner-

vous skating her programme in public for the first time." Witt will need a top-three placing in Herne to compete in the European Championships in Copenhangen next month and keep alive her Olympic

She won Olympie gold in 1986 before turning professions al, but a new rule permitting pros to regain their competitive status tempted her to return in search of a third Olympie title, at Lillehammer.



### HEIFERS TENDER

The Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen announces its decision to buy 450 dairy heifers Friesian or Holstein Friesian.

Those interested in bidding for this tender should contact the organisation at its premises in Al Mougabalin/Amman to buy a copy of the tander for JD 200. non-refundable and by sealed envelope.

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Head of Tenders Committee

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concord'2' THE FUGITIVE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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# Security Council welcomes Kuwait Iraqi accord, but little else

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Security Council has welcomed Iraq's recent acceptance of an extensive long-term monitoring programme of its future weapons potential.

In a letter to Iraq the council, however, said it would continue to follow closely Irag's cooperation with weapons inspectors 'as they carry out plans for ongoing monitoring and verification over a sustained period.

The monitoring programme is a key step toward lifting the -oil embargo against Iraq. which has been under stringent trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Rolf Ekeus, bead of the U.N. special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq's war machine, said it would take about six months to implement the monitoring programme. UN-SCOM first needs to survey more than 100 sites before beginning the programme, in February at the earliest.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who has maintained the toughest posi-tion among the 15 council members on any easing of sanctions, said the testing period should be "at least six to 12 months," diplomats reported.

The letter was crafted carefully after U.S. officials declined to compliment Iraq on anything. But other council members believed Baghdad's acceptance of the monitoring needed more than an acknow-

In the end Washington agreed on the simple text but U.S. officials, in talks with reporters, were careful to stress the words "sustained period.

Britain's ambassador, Sir David Hannay, told reporters the monitoring showed a "spirit of some cooperation" in the weapons area. But he said "only the super-optimists in the council would deny that there would not be a need for a great deal more perseverance before we get to the end of the

Diplomats said earlier that Iraq had some informal discus-. sions with the United Nations on resuming limited oil sales, which the council authorised to belp pay for badly needed humanitarian supplies for the Iraqi people.

Iraq bad earlier turned down deal of a one-time sale of \$1.6 billion, which is separate from a total lifting of the oil

embargo.

But the envoys and U.N. officials said no decision had been made to resume these talks and they did not expect one, if any, for several months. Mr. Ekeus said be did not think Iraq would resume talks because of beavy U.N. control on food distribution and other

idea at all," be said.

A 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution, written in the main by Washington, specifically ties sanctions on oil exports to fufilling weapons demands. Other council requirements are linked to sanctions on im-

matters. "They don't like the

ports of goods to Iraq. Nevertheless, some Security, Council diplomats, sympathetic to lifting the oil embargo, say Iraq would have to recognise its newly-demarcated boundary with Kuwait hefore Washington would even consider easing the oil embargo.

An advance team from the United Nations will travel to Iraq in January to prepare for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme, Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Ekeus said Baghdad's decision to agree to long-term monitoring removed the main ohstaele to lifting the oil

The council "will follow closely Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission and

### to claim \$117b from Iraq out the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification over a sustained period," the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as they carry

Mr. Ekeus said the U.N.

monitoring could be deployed

as early as February and that

there would be a six-month

probation period to test it.

The day the embargo is

lifted, the system must be

strong enough to continue and not collapse," be said.

term monitoring bas caused a devaluation of the dinar

against the U.S. dollar in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The exchange rate bad been stable at around 40 dinars to

the dollar for several months,

but Baghdad's announcement

oner week ago that it agreed to the U.N. demand for long-

term monitoring pushed the rate as high as 52 to the dollar,

traders told an AFP correspon-

46 and 50 dinars to the dollar

during the week after the

border, cigarette merchants

said they were unable to sell

cigarettes, the prices of which

Normally traders smuggle

cigarettes into Turkey and

Syria, providing one of the

most important sources of in-

Omran on the Iranian border

said Iran had closed its border

They said Iran was con-cerned that the Iraqi govern-ment might change the dinar currency completely following

its agreement to long-term

monitoring.
Truck drivers arriving from

Iran told AFP their trucks car-rying food had been stranded

on the Iranian side of the bor-der for the past five days.

to trade a week ago,

Customs officials at Haj

come in the Dobuk region.

are pegged to the dollar.

In Dohuk near the Turkish

announcement.

The rate fluctuated between

The Iraqi agreement to long-

council letter said.

KUWAIT (Agencies) - Kuwait will claim about \$117 billion in compensation through the United Nations for losses from Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, an official said on Saturday.

"The losses Kuwait can claim through the United Nations are preliminarily estimated at approximately 35 bil-lion dinars (\$117 billion)." said an official of the public authority for assessment of compensations for damages resulting from Iraqi aggression.

Adel Assam, the general manager, said by telephone the \$117 billion of claims by the public and private sector and by individuals did not include oil revenue lost due to damage and destruction caused to oil installations.

Such additional economic losses would take total losses in Kuwait to about \$170 billion. he said.

The figures do not include losses suffered by Kuwaithased foreign or multinational institutions and exputriates,

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms Iraq must compensate all losses caused by its invasion and occupation.

Baghdad will be required to pay to a special U.N. compensation fund a third of oil revenues when it is eventually allowed to resume exports following the lifting of sanctions.

Even if Iraq paid all its oil revenues into the U.N. compensation fund it would take about a decade to repay Kuwait if producing at pre-invasion rates and selling at current depressed prices.

Mr. Assam said interest on the losses incurred during the seven months of Iraqi occupation from August 1990 to February 1991 was estimated at \$30 billion billion.

Kuwaiti assets, estimated at \$100 billion before the Iraqi invasion, were halved after the lraqi troops were driven out by a U.S.-led coalition in February 1991, because of spending on reconstruction. mainly in the oil sector, which was seriously damaged during the Gulf wur.

More than 80 per cent of Kuwait's revenue comes from oil exports.

Mr. Assam said that under U.N. rules the additional economic losses such as forfeited oil revenue could not be recovered through the U.N. fund set up by the world body. He said Kuwait could try to

recover the additional economic losses through the World Court in the Hague or perhaps through Iraqi courts at some stage in the future.

Mr. Assam said he expected final assessment of Kuwaii's losses would be completed within a few weeks.

The Kuwaiti economy has also suffered in the past few years from had management of foreign investments Kuwait lost up to \$5 billion

in Spain. Meanwhile, the head of the Kuwaiti committee for prisoners-of-war (PoWs) and missing said his country would even "join forces with the devil" to secure the release of Kuwaitis still held in Iraqi prisons.



his creation the "Amusing Roller II" during a demonstration in downtown Tokyo Saturday. The vehicle, which can drive sideways, took

which is held to encourage engineers working at Toyota to put together their own ideas (AFP

### **Arafat relents to Executive** Committee pressure for changes

Members trying to defuse a row over Mr. Arafat's leadership style agreed at a meet-ing in Tunis to set up a committee to oversee the talks, the

PLO officials say Mr. Arafat Israel in recent weeks, alienating senior colleagues in the PLO's executive body.

decided to set up a body which will be the reference for the talks with Israel," said a senior PLO official who asked not to be named,

Mr. Arafat called talks in Tunis Friday night after three top aides and key supporters of his peace deal with Israel were said to be "in a sulky mood" for weeks over the leadership

Ahhas. He directed secret talks with Israel which led to the self-rule agreement he signed on behalf of the PLO in September. The others are information chief Yasser Abed-Rahbo and Suleiman Najab, leader of the Palestinian People's Party.

chairman with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the PLO-Israeli liaison committee

CAIRO (AFP) - Israel's

monopoly on nuclear weapons

in the Middle East is justified

because of continuing threats from Iraq and Iran, a senior

U.S. Under-Secretary of De-

fence Frank Wisner, who en-

ded a visit to Egypt Saturday, said Iraq "still has designs on the development of weapons of

mass destruction," while han's

case was "a bit different, but

"The threat that Israel faces

in my judgement is not in the

immediate neighbourhood...

we have to remember that

U.S. official said here.

no less alarming."

on the negotiations. But the liaison committee met only once in October and was not convened when the Cairo talks with Israel on the implementation of the self-rule

the PLO on Dec. 13, PLO

Jericho under the peace

diaspora, the official said.

mittee meeting was attended by 11 of its 18 members. It has lost six of its original 18 members who resigned when secret negotiations with Israel

The meeting is to resume on Dec. 9 to allow Mr. Arafat to go to Jordan for a meeting n

weapons of mass destruction now can be launched from long

distances and carried by mis-

Monday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and visit Germany next week, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat, meanwhile. appointed two top supporters to lead his mainstream Fateh group in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and reorganise its ranks before Israel starts a withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini was appointed Fatch leader for the West Bank, and another negotiator, Zakaria Agha, was named Fateh chief in Gaza, PLO sources said.

The appointments were made during a meeting late Friday of Fateh's 18-member ruling Central Committee.

Mr. Husseini and Mr. Agha have been loyal PLO supporters and peace advocates for many years.. Mr. Husseini was instrumental in helping former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker get the Middle East peace process off the ground. But this was the first time that either activist was official-

ly named to a post in Fatch or any of the seven other factions under the PLO umhrella. Hanan Ashrawi, the peace negotiator who will head the Palestinian's diplomatic office in Washington, called the appointments "a victory for

moderation." The appointment of Mr. Husseini and Mr. Agha apparently was aimed at silenc-ing critics within Fateb

#### Castro plays down sports stars' defections

HAVANA (AFP) - President Castro played down the defection of over 40 Cuhan athletes at the recent Central American and Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico during a welcome home reception for the rest of the team. "Despite the fact some (athletes) were disloyal, it was offset by the fact that the majority had the dignity to be loyal to the motherland," said Mr. Castro at the reception. Altogether 42 athletes defected during the games which finished last Tuesday. Many of them were helped by Cuban exiles. In a bid to stop further defections Cuban officials shipped most of their remaining athletes and officials back home even before the closing ceremonies. The only athletes left behind to march in the parade were the champion baseball team who remained defection free. Conrado Martinez, president of Crha's Sports Federation, also p /ed down the defections during the reception, saying only fo\_ per cent of the 800-strong team had requested political asylum. Mr. Martinez added that Cuban sport would benefit from the defections. "Now we feel better. They the defectors) have helped us purify Cuban sport," said Mr. Mar-tinez. He claimed that all sorts of inducements had been made to the athletes by anti-Castro groups to try to get more of them to defect but Castro boasted that all the gold in the world could not buy Cuban athletes.

### down in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) \_ Reported cases of murder. rape and other serious crimes fell by five per cent in the United States in the first six months of 1993 compared to the same period last year, the government said. The numbers follow a general decline in serious crimes nationwide; serious crime was down three per cent in 1992 from 1991, according to figures reported by police departments to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Still, FBI Director Louis Freeh said there was too

may be provided.

#### Somali talks on brink of collapse makeup of regional and district Monday.

ADDIS ABABA (Agency) — Somali peace talks were on the hrink of collapse Saturday, a key Somali official said, amid a dispute over proposals by Ethiopiun President Meles Zenawi, who is hosting the negotiations.

Aweys Haji Youysef, advisor to interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, said Mr. Zenawi told a meeting of 12 factions opposed to warload Mohammad Farah Aideed that the talks were over because of their rejection of his proposals.

The doors to inter-Somali negotiations are closed, good-bye." Mr. Haji Yousef quoted Mr. Zenawi as saying at the end of the meeting early Saturday.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's group leads the 12 anti-Aldeed factions.

M1. Haji Yousef said Mr. Zenawi had made three "unacceptable" proposals to the factions, who have been gathered here since the start of the week to seek a solution to Somali's civil war.

· These were: that they support the release of pro-Aideed Somalia National Alliance (SNA) prisoners held by the United Nations in Mogadishu: that they reconsider the

councils set up under U.N. guidance across Somalia: and that they agreed in principle to a new conference of national reconciliation.

proposals, insisting that for the moment only informal negotiations should be held, on the basis of agreements reached in

Ethiopian government of heing "biased" in favour of Gen.

General Aideed arrived several days after the start of the talks, having initially boycotted them.

Gen. Aideed said on his arrival here Thursday — fol-lowing strong persuasion hy the Ethiopian government that he had "no problem" with his "brother" (Ali Mahdi) and that he would set no conditions

for a meeting with him.

The Ethioipian government said Thursday that the talks should last two or three days. ending hefore President Zenawi's departure for Egypt

The 12 factions rejected the

Addis Ababa last March. "If the Ethiopian president does not change his mind, it is over and we will undoubtedly leave tomorrow." said Mr. Haji Yousef, who accused the

Aideed.

the tulks should lead to a reconciliation conference in Ethiopit or Somulia lasting several months, from January. SNA officials told reporters Gen. Aideed was ready to

ing Gen. Aideed than meet him before he accepted the conditions he had set. "We have made our position very clear to president Meles

him." he said.

The government also said meet Mr. Mahdi without any

preconditions.
"He is in his hotel room. He is ready to meet Ali Mahdi as soon as he (Al Mahdt) changes his mind. That is why we came here." said Abdul Kurim

But political commentators

turn to Somalia without meet-

Zenawi. Aideed must accept and commit himself to these conditions before we can meet

Ahmad. Gen. Aideed's de-

said the chances of a meeting between the two men were diminishing.
Mr. Ali Mahdi told reporters
on Friday he would rather re-

Ethiopia would like to arrange a settlement based on a preliminary peace agreement signed in Addis Ahaha.

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee decided Saturday to end Chairman Yasser Arafat's monopoly in directing talks with Israel, PLO sources said.

bas been singlehandedly directing the dialogue with

"The Executive Committee

The three include Mahmoud

In theory, Mr. Abbas is co-

accord hit deadlock. Mr. Arafat invited the three to attend the Executive Committee meeting, promising free debate on democratic reforms in the PLO, the PLO sonrces

During the sessions on Friday night and Saturday, the Executive Committee also took measures to prepare a constitutional charter and define the outlines of economie policy in occupied areas where Israel is due to hand over to

officials said. It also started discussing names for the Palestinian National Authority which will be chaired by Mr. Arafat and is to take control after the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and WEst Bank town of

The authority will be composed of personalities from the occupied territories and the

The PLO Executive Com-

Wisner defends Israeli 'deterrent'

siles." Mr. Wisner said. The U.S. official held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Saturday, as part of a tour to reassure the United States' friends about U.S. defence commitments in

the Middle East. Mr. Wisner, formerly U.S. amhassador to Egypt, said the Iranian government was "developing weapons of mass des-truction." and would "over time be a substantial threat to the rest of the region and to the

A Western diplomat in Cairo said Mr. Wisner was implicitly attributing to Israel a role as a nuclear deterrent against countries threatening the interests of the United States and its Arab allies in the

region. Mr. Wisner said U.S. military aid to Israel. Egypt and the Gulf countries would be maintained.

He is due to travel on to Gulf Arah countries.

U.S. troops have been stationed in the Gulf since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in

# Success of peace hinges on 'proper' implementation of self-rule

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The success of the Middle East peace process depends on the proper implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, there is no Islamic threat to the peace process and regional security is possible only with political breakthrough leading to normalised relations among the countries of the region; this is the net analysis of three American scholars and political scientists currently visiting Jordan.

The three, Ricbard Hermann, Richard Cottam and Shibly Telhami, are specialists in their respective fields which are interwoven in the Middle East peace process. According to Dr. Her-

mann, who is presenting a briefing on "U.S. Middle East policy and the peace process' at the American Centre library today, there is no commitment on the part of the U.S. administration on the shape of a Palestinians entity to emerge from the peace process. But then, he said, the

peace process is open-ended

and it is up to the Palestinians

and Israelis to determine the

shape of a Palestinian entity

in negotiations slated to start

in the third year of autonomy

Jordan Times Staff Reporter as envisaged in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

"I don't think that the U.S. will bave anything against any solution that emerges from a consensus of the regional parties involved in the peace process," Dr. Her-mann told the Jordan Times. At the same time, the

Palestinians have to make a

success of their legislative

elections, scheduled to be held in July 1994 under the autonomy accord, to belp create a positive atmosphere for the acbievement of their aspirations, he said. Dr. Hermann believes that Washington, in the short term, will provide enough assistance, direct and indirect, to ensure that the

Palestinian economy is de-

veloped and becomes a con-

tributing factor to the success of the peace process. One of the basic elements, in his helief, is that Washington is aware that if the peace process fails, that will be the end of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as well as a severe blow to U.S. "prestige," which, he says, Washington put on the line hy throwing its weight behind the autonomy

Jordan has to play a central role in ensuring the success of the accord, but it is doubtful that the Kingdom stands to receive any substantial amount of direct American assistance, Dr. Hermann said, pointing out that the focus of the Americans in the post-cold war era is towards addressing economic prob-

lems at home.

American Centre is entitled "The Islamic challenge to the peace process." The title of the briefing is "misleading," said Dr. Cottam, who does not believe that Iran or any other Muslim

Dr. Cottam is an expert on

Iran whose briefing in today's round-table discussion at the

country poses any threat to the peace process. According to Dr. Cottam. Washington is not "ade-quately addressing" signals from Iranian President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani that Tehran is willing to interact with the peace process.

"The American focus on Iran is one of bostility," as a "terrorist" state which threatens U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East. Dr. Cottam said.
"I don't believe Iran is in a

position to threaten Amer-

ican interests or undermine

the peace process," he said, adding that the U.S. was not

in a position to control or

dominate Iran even under the bypothetical premise that it threatens the U.S.

Dr. Cottam's explanation to the support that Iran is extending to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, an avowed opponent of the peace process, is more in line with Tehran's belief that Iran is the only Muslim country which provides proper leadership and guidance to Islamic movements all over the

world. Dr. Cottam is an advocate of a total reconsidering of the present American thinking towards Iran with a view of integrating the country into mainstream international politics rather than the containment and isolation policy followed by Washington vis-

a-vis the Gulf giant. Dr. Cottam believes that a strategic relationship is nnlikely between the Islamists and mostly secular, nationalist Palestinians since the differences hetween the two sides are too vast.

At the same time, the pos-

sibility remains that national-

ists could get disenchanted

with the peace process if they

find their aspirations slowly being eroded. Asked how he viewed prospects of direct American intervention to bridge the gap between Israel and the PLO as a means to counter the influence of the rejectionist camp, Dr. Cottam said he, did not believe that Washington bad a blueprint ready for such an intervention.

Dr. Telhami, the third scholar who presents a hricfing on "The Israeli-Palestinian agreement: Its implications for regional security." believes that the "proper" implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord and efficient use of funds to develop the Palestinian economy is the key to the success

of the peace process.

If these two objectives are served well, then opposition to the peace accord will gradually fade away, making way to pragmatic thinking among the opponents of a

negotiated peace with Israel. Dr. Telhami described as unfortunate a comment by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over the weekend that the peace accord would be off if Hamas won the expected July elections to a Palestnian self-rule governing body (Hamas has repeatedly said, however, that it has no plans to participate in the elections and vowed to do everything in its power to

wreck the autonomy accord). Dr. Telhami said both sides have an ohligation to live up to the letter and spirit of the Sept. 13 accord and, as such, comments such as those Mr. Peres made will have a negative effect on the pro-

In the context of his specialisation in regional security, Dr. Telhami said he believed that concerns over security on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide could be alleviated to a large extent once Israel actually returns part of the land to the Palestinians under the autonomy accord.

Israel has to prove to the Arabs that it does not "covet" land and is not expansionist, as feared by the Arabs, and once this concept takes hold then the atmosphere for peace will be considerably improved, he said. "Political breakthroughs" are the key to regional secur-

ity and these two issues go hand in hand, he said. Asked how he viewed Jordan's call for a conference on Middle East security along the lines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Dr. Telhami and Dr. Hermann said such a concept was welcome as long as it would set the groundwork for arms control agreements to go hand in hand with political

agreements.
Without political agreements leading to bilateral interaction among Israel and the Arab countries a CSCE- style meeting will fall much short of serving its intended purpose, they said. Dr. Hermann noted that

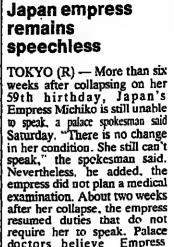
all countries in Europe, (except Alhania) and the U.S. and Canada took part in the CSCE meetings after close political interaction among all countries involved something that is lacking in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, he noted, countries like Iran and Iraq. and others involved in the

peace process, like Syria and Lebanon, are not taking part in the multilateral talks on Middle East arms control as part of the peace process. "Regional security cannot be based on simple arms control agreements," he said, pointing out that such accords need close monitoring mechanisms which could not materialise except under

bilateral political agreements. At the same time, political negotiations and arms control discussions could complement each other in the sense that progress made on one track could encourage the parties involved to make

progress on the other.
The round-table discussions attended by the three scholars begin at the American Centre library under the auspices of the U.S. Information Agency at 5 p.m. today.

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Nevertheless, he added, the empress did not plan a medical examination. About two weeks after her collapse, the empress resumed duties that do not require her to speak. Palace doctors believe Empress Michiko, speechless since Oct. 20, is suffering from an illness caused by "deep sorrow." Tests on ber brain detected no irregularities in her nervous system, according to palace statements released shortly after the mysterious malady struck. Her symptoms at first prompted speculation she had suffered a minor stroke but the palace reports suggested deep depression, partly caused hy magazine articles which criticised her. Empress Michiko, although widely popular with the public, is said to be disliked by certain ultraconservative courtiers for her attempts to modernise and open up the closed imperial family. Weekly magazines ran articles in the weeks leading up to her collapse attacking Empress Michiko as a "dictadetermined to wrest control of palace management. A Bungei Shunju weekly magazine, Shukan Bunshun, ran two articles in September portraying her as bossy and dictatorial in the palace. One alleged she had demanded that a forest loved by ber busband's

# misunderstanding.

father, the late Emperor Hirobito.

be cut down. Another said that

both Emperor Akihito and

empress Michiko disliked the uniforms of the Self Defence

Forces — Japan's armed forces

- and wanted them to wear

plain clothes to imperial func-

tions. The magazine published an apology last month, admit-

ting some of the expressions

lacked precision and caused

### Serious crime

much crime in this enumer. "The small reported in the

most American and much comfort from them because the levels of violent crime and drug trafficking re-main so staggering." he said in a statement.